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Romanian foreign  
minister in Iraq

NICOSIA (AP) —  
Romanian  
Foreign Minister  
Ilie Vaduva ar-  
rived in Tehran  
on Sunday for a  
three-day official  
visit. Vaduva  
was accompanied  
by a five-man  
delegation, was  
welcomed at the  
airport by his  
Iranian counterpart  
Ali Akbar Velayati,  
added the agency.  
Mr. Vaduva's  
visit will centre  
on international  
issues and bilat-  
eral relations,  
while the Iran-Iraq  
war was also  
expected to be  
discussed, the  
agency said.

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# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
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## Goulding: UNIFIL should stay

BEIRUT (R) — U.N. Assistant Secretary-General Mark Goulding, concluding a two-day tour of South Lebanon, warned Sunday that the withdrawal of U.N. peacekeeping troops from the area would create a "dangerous situation." Mr. Goulding, a 50-year-old Briton, told reporters Israel's sweep through South Lebanon along with shelling of villages "complicated even more the situation." Referring to the six-day Israeli troops launched on Feb. 17 in search of two Israeli soldiers captured by commandos and the ensuing shelling of ten Lebanese villages, he said "it should not have happened." Mr. Goulding also described the U.S. Congress decision to reduce the U.S. contribution to the U.N. Truce Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), as "one of the biggest and most serious obstacles" for the renewal of the mandate of the U.N. force.

## Sudanese thank Jordan for aid

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Committee for Solidarity with Sudan has received a cable of thanks from the citizens of the Sudanese city of Kairouan. The cable expressed Kairouan residents' thanks and appreciation for His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Jordan National Committee and for all sectors of the Jordanian people for their great feeling and sympathy with the sufferings of the drought-stricken Sudanese people. This feeling, they added, was manifested in the concern and aid offered by Jordan to drought and desertification victims in Sudan. The Jordanian aid left a great impression on the citizens of Kairouan, the cable said.

## Herut seeks heir to Begin

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's divided right-wing Herut Party opened its first convention in seven years Sunday to decide who will inherit the mantle abandoned by former Prime Minister Menachem Begin. The convention is a test of party strength for Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, 70, who takes over as prime minister in October from Shimon Peres under a coalition agreement with the Labour Party. Challenging Shamir are Industry Minister Ariel Sharon, the retired general who planned Israel's 1982 Lebanon invasion, and Housing Minister David Levy, representing a new generation of Oriental Jews.

## Benazir Bhutto to return home

LONDON (AP) — Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto intends to return home permanently from exile in London at the end of March and embark on a nationwide political tour, risking arrest again, her spokesman said on Sunday. The return of Miss Bhutto, leader of her executed father's Pakistan People's Party, could test the Pakistan government's pledge to allow free political activity following the Jan. 1 end of eight-and-a-half years of martial law, said her spokesman, Bashir Riaz. "If she is allowed to address public meetings and take part in political activities, then that's OK," Riaz said. "But there is great fear that she will be arrested, and if she is, the workers of the party will start agitation... she knows the dangers."

## Romanian foreign minister in Iraq

NICOSIA (AP) — Romanian Foreign Minister Ilie Vaduva arrived in Tehran on Sunday for a three-day official visit, reported the official Islamic Republic News Agency. Mr. Vaduva was accompanied by a five-man delegation, was welcomed at the airport by his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati, added the agency. Mr. Vaduva's talks during his visit will centre on international issues and bilateral relations, while the Iran-Iraq war was also expected to be discussed, the agency said.

## Iraqis launch major offensive to counter Iranians in north

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq announced its forces launched a major counter-offensive northeast of Sulaymaniyeh on Sunday liberating three strategic heights captured by the Iranians two weeks ago.

Fao offensive on Feb. 9.

Aziz briefs Mubarak

In Cairo, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak held talks on Sunday shortly after Mr. Aziz arrived for discussions on the Gulf war and other issues.

Mr. Aziz told airport reporters he was "brief and reassured" Mr. Mubarak on the situation at the warfront, adding "we are deeply confident that we will win."

He said he brought a verbal message for the president from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, covering Middle East problems, the Gulf war and bilateral relations.

Egypt supports Iraq in the war against Iran and supplies it with weapons and other military hardware.

Mr. Aziz said Iraq had recaptured 95 per cent of territory taken by Iran on the northern warfront and had Iranian forces holding the Fao Peninsula completely under siege. "Our troops are advancing according to a planned programme," he said.

Egypt's Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid said Egypt was keen to reaffirm support for Iraq, "the protective shield of this region against Iranian penetration."

Baghdad Radio said heights no. 1225, 1251 and 1625 were completely cleared of Iranian forces and "the situation has stabilised in our favour."

Last Friday, Iraq reported recapturing two mountains and two lesser heights in the same region near the Iraqi city of Chwarta in Iraqi Kurdistan.

The Iraqis occupied the heights in an offensive launched on Feb. 15 in an attempt to ease Iraqi pressure on the Iranian forces occupying the Fao Peninsula in the southern battlefield.

The Iraqis occupied parts of the Fao Peninsula in an earlier offensive, which was launched across the Shatt Al Arab waterway in the southern most corner of Iraq on Feb. 9.

Iraq says that the Iraqis have been flushed out of most of the territory they captured in Fao, but Iran insists its forces still hold 850 square kilometres in the area.

There was no immediate Iranian comment on Sunday's Iraqi report. Earlier in the day, however,

the official Iranian news agency (IRNA) claimed the Iranian forces were still in control of 300 square kilometres, including strategic mountains in the Chwarta region.

Meanwhile, both Iran and Iraq reported heavy ground and air fighting in the Fao Peninsula.

Iraq and Iran also claimed on Sunday to have shot down enemy aircraft, with Iran also claiming its forces wiped out an Iraqi battalion trying to retake Fao.

The Iraqi news agency (INA) reported the downing of an Iranian helicopter by anti-aircraft fire along the Iran-Iraq border on the Sulaymaniyeh front.

The region, about 290 kilometres northeast of Baghdad, is where the Iraqis launched an attack late last month, apparently to reduce pressure on their troops holding the Fao Peninsula.

IRNA claimed that an Iraqi warplane was shot down in the Fao region by anti-aircraft fire Saturday night. It claimed the plane was the 68th Iraqi craft downed since the start of Iran's

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## Israeli soldier killed, 5 injured in Lebanon commando ambush

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Four Lebanese commandos ambushed an Israeli army patrol in South Lebanon on Sunday, killing one Israeli soldier and wounding five others, the Israeli army said.

Two commandos were killed while the other two escaped, the army said in a communique. In a subsequent search of the area the soldiers discovered Kalashnikov rifles and grenades by the bodies, said the army.

Five Israeli soldiers were wounded in the incident, latest in the recent escalation of attacks in Israel's self-styled "security zone" against the Israelis and their "South Lebanon Army" militia allies.

An Israeli spokesman said the clash occurred about five kilometres north of the Israeli border shortly after midnight.

Hezbollah (Party of God) for capturing two Israeli soldiers in an ambush in South Lebanon last month. Responsibility for the attack was claimed by the Islamic Resistance Front, a coalition of resistance groups working against the Israeli occupation of the "security zone."

The group announced it killed one soldier and would execute the other unless Israel withdrew its troops from South Lebanon.

Israel says it withdrew the bulk of its troops from South Lebanon in June 1985, but foreign reports say at least 1,000 soldiers remain.

An Israeli spokesman said on Saturday Israeli troops captured a Palestinian commando and shot dead two other armed men last week when they tried to infiltrate from Lebanon.

## 4 killed in continuing S.African violence

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Four blacks died violently from police gunfire or vengeance attacks by other blacks in a spate of rioting around the country, police said Sunday.

A police summary of overnight incidents showed a jump in the level of violence after a relatively quiet Friday and Saturday following the lifting of the seven-month state of emergency.

A woman was clubbed to death by eight black men who then set her body on fire in Denilton in the north of the country, the statement said.

In another apparent inter-black vengeance attack, a man was stabbed to death and set ablaze, it said.

Police said they fired shots to disperse blacks who were stoning other blacks at a sports meeting at Alwalal north in the southeast of the country. A girl died in hospital of wounds apparently sustained in this incident, the statement said, without specifying whether it was the stones or the gunfire that killed her. It added that police were investigating.

In Kwazakhele, a back township near the south coast city of Port Elizabeth, a man was fatally wounded when police opened fire on a crowd throwing firebombs at his home, the statement said without elaborating.

## Aquino plans to proclaim revolutionary government

MANILA (AP) — President Corason Aquino's administration plans to proclaim itself a revolutionary government "in a few days," promulgating a new constitution and hold elections for local officials in November, the Philippine News Agency (PNA) reported on Sunday.

The PNA reported Political Affairs Minister Antonio Cuenco as making the disclosure at a news conference in the central Philippine city of Cebu on Saturday.

"In a few days, President Aquino will declare that indeed there is a revolutionary government," Mr. Cuenco was quoted as saying, adding the proclamation of such a government was necessary to facilitate reform of an autocratic system left by deposed President Ferdinand E. Marcos.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Aquino addressed about 5,000 women who marched to the presidential palace Sunday to celebrate international women's day and pay tribute to the role women played in the "people power" revolution that swept her to power last Feb. 25.

The women, including dozens of Roman Catholic nuns, housewives, students, teachers and other professionals, packed a presidential palace lawn and cheered and applauded when Mrs. Aquino said she planned to announce price cuts on unspecified goods in the coming weeks.

## Pakistanis protest police action against poppy growers

ISLAMABAD (R) — More than 20 members walked out of Pakistan's parliament on Sunday in protest at police action in opening fire on opium poppy growers in North-West Frontier Province.

At least five people were killed in the battle in the Gadoon area on Saturday between police and poor hill tribesmen defending their only cash crop.

National Assembly (lower house) Speaker Fakhr Imam said the authorities had told him that the member from the area, Yaqub Khan Gadoon, had been arrested on charges including attempted murder, conspiracy and possession of illegal arms.

Mr. Saifullah said he would demand a special debate in parliament over the clash.

Opposition politicians outside parliament planned rallies in towns near Gadoon, about 80 kilometres northwest of Islamabad, to protest against the police raid and to demand compensation for any destroyed crops.



KING VISITS PSD: His Majesty King Hussein confers with Public Security Directorate (PSD) Director-General Lieutenant-General Abdul Hadi Majali (right) during a visit he made to the PSD on Sunday. The King, who was accompanied

by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, was briefed by Lt.-Gen. Majali on PSD programmes and activities (Petra photo)

## Seminar urges Arab states to boost facilities to use Arabsat

By Rana Sabbagh  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Participants from eight Arab countries and two international and pan-Arab organisations concluded a seminar on Sunday by calling on Arab states to increase their investments in the two Arab satellites now in orbit by completing compatible ground stations to receive the satellites' signals and adequate ground networks to transmit information to and from ground stations.

Educationalists and scientists who participated in the two-day seminar on the "role of the Arab Satellites Communications Organisation (Arabsat) in developing regional culture and education" recommended that the organisation should lay down defined policies and protocols for employing the telecommunication and technological facilities offered by the satellites to realise the objective of adding an impetus to the regions socio-economic, cultural and technological development.

Arabsat's two satellites — A-1 and A-2 — were launched into orbit in February and June last year. Although the event marked the first pan-Arab satellite communication venture, utilisation of the project has been "poor and

below-average," according to the seminar's recommendations. Arabsat -1 is now operational after successfully overcoming its technical problems but repairs have affected its average life span from between seven to 10 years by 10 per cent. Arabsat-2 has replaced the first satellite which now acts as a substitute.

The Arabsat project, according to participants who attended the seminar, which was organised by the Arab Thought Forum (ATF), is facing "a tough financial crisis" because some Arab countries have failed to pay their dues and its operational costs have been very high since its telecommunication facilities are only used by 13 out of the 21 Arab countries who are members of Arabsat.

Other factors which have aggravated the financial situation include poor investment in the satellites' facilities and the lapse of one year of the satellites' life span during which only partial use of its facilities was made, the seminar heard.

Less than the full capacity of one of the satellites' eight telephone channels has been used — each channel has the capacity of 1,000 lines and at present only 180 telephone lines are used.

Also, out of nine Arabsat channels allocated for domestic television use, Saudi Arabia has been the only country to lease 1.25 channels.

Arabsat members, with the exception of Saudi Arabia, are still using satellite facilities provided by the International Satellite Organisation (Intelsat) for their domestic use since Intelsat subscription rates are lower than Arabsat.

Participants of the seminar called on all Arab countries to use Arabsat facilities instead of Intelsat.

No investment has been made in Arabsat's S-band satellite channel which has been designed for direct pan-Arab television exchanges.

Participants also called on Arab television corporations to use the S-band for pan-Arab information links and suggested that Arab countries should agree on a rotating programme for television exchanges in the sense that each country agrees to transmit a programme until eventually more concrete and educational programmes have been produced to help boost the Arab identity, culture and education.

The conference concluded that a special committee to market

(Continued on page 3)

## Murphy arrives in Cairo

CAIRO (Agencies) — U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy arrived in Cairo Sunday for talks on the stalled Middle East peace process with President Hosni Mubarak and Egyptian officials.

The Egyptians are also expected to brief Mr. Murphy on the Feb. 26 riots by police conscripts, in which 107 people were killed.

Mr. Murphy is due to meet Mr. Mubarak Monday morning and to see Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid later in the day.

Mr. Murphy arrived here from Tunis after meeting Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi.

Mr. Murphy arrived in Tunis on Saturday with Vice-President George Bush, who left the same afternoon for Lisbon.

Tunisian sources quoted by Reuters said problems discussed during Mr. Murphy's visit to Tunis included North African issues, the Middle East, the Iran-Iraq war and Afghanistan.

They said relations between Tunisia and Libya, severed since last year after Libya expelled Tunisian migrant workers, were at the top of the agenda.

Mr. Murphy is accompanied on his visit to Cairo by Robert Pelletreau, deputy under-secretary for defence, who held talks with Tunisian Defence Minister Shabdenne Bali on ways to strengthen U.S.-Tunisian relations, the sources said.

Mr. Bush said at the end of his visit on Saturday that the relations between the two countries were "extremely solid."

After his talks in Cairo, Mr. Murphy was to travel to several other capitals in the Middle East. No details of his trip have been revealed, but U.S. officials said he would be concentrating on bilateral matters rather than the Middle East peace process.

A source close to Mr. Murphy refused to comment on a statement on Saturday by the Palestine Liberation Organisation that the United States was responsible for the end to political coordination between Jordan and the PLO (See page 4).

It is a Palestinian-Jordanian affair," the source, quoted by AP, said.

## French envoy arrives in Beirut in bid to resolve hostage crisis

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A caller claiming to speak for Islamic Jihad (holy war) said on Sunday the group was responsible for abducting a four-man French television crew in Beirut, and a French envoy arrived for talks on the expanding hostage crisis.

The caller warned France, faced by elections in six days, that it had one week in which to "recover" two dissident Iraqis expelled from France to Baghdad last month.

The French government, which held crisis meetings in Paris last Saturday night, has said it might have erred in sending the two dissident Iraqis back to Baghdad.

An embassy official said French envoy Serge Boidevaux, one of three being sent to Lebanon, Syria and Iran, had arrived in Beirut and was "contacting officials." He gave no details.

The seizure of the French TV crew, bringing to 17 the number of Foreign hostages held in Lebanon (See page 2), has deepened the French government's predicament over the fate of four other French kidnap victims.

The crew's driver, Ahmad Zeinedine said his yellow Mercedes was stopped by four or five men brandishing pistols at about 5.30 p.m. (1530 GMT) on Sunday on

the southern outskirts of west Beirut.

The caller said the four had been abducted because they behaved suspiciously in the mainly Shi'ite southern suburbs.

France's state-run television channel Antenne 2 identified the crew as reporter Philippe Rochot, cameraman Georges Hansen and technicians Aurel Comea and Jean-Louis Normandin.

Major-General Osman Osman, Lebanon's police commander, told the Associated Press on Sunday that authorities "have no clues

(Continued on page 3)

## Waldheim emphatically denies Nazi allegations

VIENNA (R) — Former U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim on Sunday energetically denied all allegations that he has a Nazi past and accused the New York Times of spreading "the most grotesque" stories about him.

"I was neither a member of the (Nazi) Brownshirts (SA) or of the student federation," he told journalists in a 80-minute live interview on Austrian Television.

"This is a most deliberate smear campaign against me of a kind unprecedented in Austria's post-war history," Dr. Waldheim said in a voice quivering with emotion. "All these allegations are untrue."

A front-page New York Times article last Tuesday indirectly quoted Dr. Waldheim — presidential candidate for Austria's conservative opposition People's Party (OeVP) — as admitting membership of the two Nazi groups.

The newspaper also said he was attached to a German army command that fought brutal campaigns against Yugoslav partisans and engaged in mass deportations

of Greek Jews. He categorically denied ever being a member of a Nazi group or ever taking part in, or knowing about, atrocities committed by the units he served with in the Balkans.

"I must say once and for all that I am sick of being told I am not telling the truth," he said. "I shall take every step against such slanders if it carries on."

Overruling his three interviewers, he added: "I am gradually getting tired of constantly having things imputed to me that are not true, and of people apparently being more prepared to believe others — the New York Times for example which has spread the most grotesque things about me — than the man who has served his country faithfully for 40 years."

He had been checked by the secret services of all major powers before he became United Nations secretary general in 1972, he said, asking whether they would have passed him for the post if he had been found to have "a single brown spot."

He said the campaign on his all-

eged past had been prepared for months in advance in Austria and been publicised abroad in order to undermine his international credibility and damage his chances for election on May 4.

Directly facing the camera he produced a document written by a Nazi official in 1940 which stated that he and his family were hostile to the Nazis, who annexed Austria in 1938.

The New York Times and the independent Austrian magazine Profil have produced documents suggesting he joined the Nazi student federation on April 1, 1938, and the Brownshirts on Nov. 11 of that year.

Dr. Waldheim said the first entry could well be an April fool's joke, as it would have been impossible for a known anti-Nazi to be admitted to the Nazi student group only two weeks after Austria's annexation.

The second entry could have been caused by bureaucratic sloppiness after he had gone riding with a club later absorbed into the SA.

He asked why the Nazi official in 1940 did not refer to his mem-

bership of the two Nazi groups, if it had been true, as this "would have spoken in his favour in Nazi eyes."

A document which Profil alleges is the logbook of a declassification procedure on Dr. Waldheim was no such thing, he said, but a routine screening of all applicants for Austria's post-war civil service.

Dr. Waldheim said he had received many messages of support and he trusted Austrians to "draw the right conclusion" when they vote on May 4.

A poll published on Saturday by the OeVP showed the former U.N. chief 67, had doubled his popularity lead in the presidential campaign since the allegations appeared.

The survey taken on Friday showed that 42 per cent backed Dr. Waldheim while 34 per cent favoured the Socialist Party's (SPOE) candidate, Kurt Steyrer.

A poll published by the mass circulation Kronen Zeitung on Sunday showed 56 per cent of those asked did not believe the allegations of Dr. Waldheim's Nazi past.



## Foreigners learn to live with risks in Beirut

دستور



## Cabinet announces decision to open consulate in Jeddah

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet Sunday announced its decision to open a Jordanian consulate in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The step was taken because the Jordanian embassy has been transferred to the capital, Riyadh, a cabinet statement said.

Also Sunday, the cabinet endorsed development projects in Jordan, a number of which have been exempted from customs duty. The decision was taken in the course of applying regulations to encourage investment in Jordan, the statement added.

On Saturday night the cabinet

endorsed regulations governing the investments of non-Jordanian Arab citizens in Jordan. The cabinet last month announced that Jordan welcomes Arab capital to be invested in tourism, industry, education, health and purchasing government bonds issued by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The cabinet also endorsed a programme for implementing a Chinese-Jordanian cultural agreement for the years 1986, 87 and 88 and approved JD 96,362 million budget for the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) for 1986.

## JMA delegation leaves for medical talks in Algeria

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Jordanian Medical Association (JMA) led by its president, Dr. Hassan Kureis, left Amman Sunday for Algeria to take part in a meeting of the higher council of the Arab Doctors Federation, due to open in the Algerian capital Monday.

The delegation will also take part in the Arab Medical Conference due to be held in Algiers between March 12 and 14.

The conference is expected to discuss the general health conditions in the occupied Arab ter-

ritories and subjects connected with cancer and ways of treating it. Participants will also discuss surgery, pediatric surgery, community health and the treatment of heart diseases. There will be a number of seminars during the conference dealing with medical economy, general health, environmental pollution, emergency services and first aid, among other subjects.

The Jordan delegation will also attend a seminar on neurology due to be held in Algiers in the same period.

## Health Ministry, WHO hold course on storage of drugs

AMMAN (Petra) — A regional training course on the supply, storage and distribution of basic medicines began Sunday at the Department of Primary Health Care. The course is organised by the Health Ministry in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Director of Primary Health Care, Dr. Suleiman Al Subeiti, deputising for the health minister, delivered a speech in which he pointed out that recent years have witnessed a large increase in the number of pharmaceutical products in the market but he noted that this increase was not accompanied by a corresponding improvement in health because the rising production of medicines and drugs did not take into consideration basic health needs and priorities. Dr. Subeiti also thanked the WHO regional manager and the 'organisation's' officials and officers in Amman for their efforts to hold the seminar.

Mr. Shawqi Beshara, co-

ordinator of the WHO centre for environmental activities, read a message from WHO Regional Manager Dr. Hussein Al Jaziri in which he pointed out the supply of some safe and effective medicines on a regular basis is one of the eight major principles in the WHO strategy for achieving health for all by the year 2000.

Participants in the seminar will be discussing practical steps of storage, administrative requirements for the storage of medicines as well as the use of computerised administrative systems in the countries of the East Mediterranean region.

Taking part in the seminar are delegations representing Jordan, Bahrain, Syria, Tunisia, Sudan, Somalia, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, North Yemen, South Yemen, Mauritania, Morocco, WHO and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

## Jerash to hold training courses for People's Army recruits

JERASH (Petra) — Preparations have been taken for starting training courses for recruits of the People's Army in Jerash district on March 15, according to an announcement by district governor Hussein Al Habashneh.

He said that the issue was discussed during a meeting held at the chamber of commerce here and he added that agreement was reached for drawing up lists of recruits among government employees, students and other citizens aged between 16 and 55.

Five centres for training have been opened, three of which are

located in Jerash and one in Kufri Khalil and the fifth at Balila, Mr. Habashneh said.

The meeting was attended by the military governor of Irbid region and the commander of the People's Army as well as notables and leading personalities in Jerash.

Mr. Habashneh, accompanied by other officials, later inspected People's Army training centres in Baal Kanana district and Mr. Habashneh said that the first batch of recruits will be turned out by the end of this month.

## Arab Ports Union board elects Jordan as chairman for 2 years

AQABA (Petra) — Jordan has been elected chairman of the board of directors of the Arab Ports Union for the next two years. The decision was made during the board's meetings held in Djibouti at the end of last month. Ports Corporation Director General Bassam Qasbi, who represented Jordan in these meetings, told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that the meetings discussed a number of topics related to setting up a higher institute for the management of Arab ports as well as developing the marine training institute in Aqaba.

The board, of directors, he added, discussed the issue of reorganising the structure of Arab port unions which comprise the Arab Ports Union, the North African Ports Union as well as the

Union of Arab Gulf States Ports. The Arab Ports Union asked the Ports Corporation director general to raise this issue during the meetings of North African Ports Union which will be held in Algeria on April 8, according to Mr. Qasbi. He also said that the next meeting of the Arab Ports Union will be held in Syria in March next year. Taking part in the meetings were delegates from Jordan, Iraq, Tunisia, Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Somalia, Libya and Djibouti.

Mr. Qasbi also said that he and officials at the ports corporation in Djibouti discussed coordination between the two corporations with regard to the transport of containers. He added that the director general of the ports corporation in Djibouti will visit Jordan at a later date.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Yugoslav firm to supply rails for ARC

AMMAN (Petra) — A Yugoslav firm will supply iron rails for a railway linking Ma'an with Aqaba at a cost of \$4 million, in accordance with an agreement signed at the Ministry of Transport Sunday. The rails are required by the Aqaba Railway Corporation (ARC) which is now undertaking to replace and service the line between the two points. The agreement was signed by ARC Director General Mardi Qatameen and the director general of the Yugoslav company.

### JNRCS president leaves for Morocco

AMMAN (Petra) — The chairman of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) Dr. Ahmad Abu Qoura left for Casablanca, Morocco, Sunday to chair a meeting of a special committee entrusted with discussing the possibility of holding a training course on human international law in Amman.



Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh Sunday attends the inaugural ceremony of the National Dental Day at the Women's Vocational School in Amman (Petra photo)

## Ministry plans to increase number of dental clinics, Hamzeh says

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh said Sunday that his ministry has drafted a plan for the coming five years to increase the number of government-staffed dentistry clinics throughout the Kingdom.

Patronising events to mark national dental day, which has been jointly organised by the Jordan Dentists Association (JDA), the Ministries of Health and Education and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). Dr. Hamzeh said that the plan will provide a dentist's clinic at each medical centre in the rural areas. The minister praised the efforts of the JDA and the concerned ministries in sponsoring the national day and he noted that more than 250,000 patients are visiting the government dentistry clinics each year due to increasing public awareness about the importance of dental care and oral hygiene.

In his speech, Higher Education

Director Izzat Jaradat stressed that promoting health care amongst children is an important part of the educational process. The health education policy of the Ministry of Education does not only include basic medical care and vaccination campaigns but also wide-spread programmes to promote public awareness and medical guidance services, Dr. Jaradat said.

JDA President Walid Maraqa, in his address said that the idea of the national dental day was born three years ago when dentists noted a rising incidence of dental caries and periodontal diseases due to lack of public awareness. This prompted the drawing up of a comprehensive plan and a continued programme to spread public awareness through various means, including the media, Dr. Maraqa continued.

Activities to mark dental day include lectures on dental care and oral hygiene which will be delivered at schools. Slides, documentaries, brochures and painting exhibitions will also be

shown to public and school children within the comprehensive scheme, Dr. Maraqa said. He added that the association suggested that the day be on a regional level and he added that the proposal was accepted.

In his speech, Dr. Mohammad Ali Halabi, director of school health at the Ministry of Education, spoke about the introduction of school health services in 1975. Discussing the achievements of school dental teams in the past year, Dr. Halabi said that the teams have examined 108,000 students out of which approximately 77,000 students were found to have some forms of dental disease. This is about 72 per cent of the total number examined, he added.

Dr. Nasrallah Nasrallah, a representative from the JDA's information and education committee, earlier addressed the audience and said that dental day has become a pan-Arab event following the success of Jordan's three-year-old experience.

## General conference to review activities of municipalities, local councils

AMMAN (Petra) — A general conference on Jordanian municipalities will be held in Aqaba between March 15 and 18 under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, according to an announcement made by the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment on Sunday.

The announcement by the ministry's under secretary, Mr. Awad Al Tal, was made following a meeting held under the chairmanship of Minister of Municipal Affairs Marwan Hmoud and which discussed preparations for the general conference, the agenda and the procedural matters for holding it.

Mr. Tal said that the conference will be held under the slogan of developing and modernising local administration in the provinces in order to build a better society. The conference will open on March 15, which is the anniversary of Arab city day, Mr. Tal added.

He said that the idea of the conference stemmed from suggestions made during several meetings that were held between ministry officials and mayors, especially one held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai during which matters of concern to local councils and ways to develop public services in the provinces were discussed.

Mr. Tal said the conference aims at creating the opportunity for mayors and heads of village councils to study modern concepts and techniques employed in the implementation of development projects that will be linked with the national five-year development scheme and ways of involving the heads of local councils in laying down rules and laws that govern their council's activities.

The conference will address itself to the difficulties and problems that impede the work of local councils with a view to finding proper measures for solutions and will serve as a good opportunity for the heads of different local councils to exchange information and expertise on matters of concern to their regions, Mr. Tal continued.

He said that a total of 13 working papers have been prepared by specialists and experienced people in local council affairs to be discussed by the participants. These papers deal with ways of raising the efficiency of council management, public participation in protecting the environment and traditional architecture, modern construction, council's revenues, developing laws and regulations on public services and council's functions among many others, Mr. Tal added.

## French envoy in Beirut in bid to resolve crisis

(Continued from page 1)

whatsoever" about the kidnapping of the French crew. Gen. Osman voiced dismay that the Frenchmen were driving around the Shi'ite populated southern suburbs when they were seized.

"Their presence there was a mistake," he commented. He said detectives are questioning the crew's driver.

The driver was held by the kidnappers for seven hours before he was freed late Saturday night and told to keep his mouth shut.

The caller declared: "We give the French government one week to recover our two comrades from the dungeons of the Iraqi regime."

Islamic Jihad, believed made up of Shi'ite fundamentalists loyal to Iran, claimed last week it killed Michel Seurat, one of four French hostages it holds, in retaliation for the deportations.

An anonymous caller Saturday warned that the extremists will kill another hostage, possibly one of two French diplomats it holds, if the two Iraqis are not returned to France.

There was no way to authenticate Sunday's call.

Saturday's caller stressed the kidnappers are prepared to meet with Kazah Raad, a Lebanese-born French heart specialist who

has sought to secure the release of Mr. Seurat and the other three hostages.

In Paris, airport sources said, Dr. Raad had left aboard a Syrian airlines flight for Damascus. French embassy officials in Damascus said Mr. Seurat arrived in Syria Saturday night to investigate the hostages' plight.

"After the French government's rejection of the two new demands which we released yesterday and its insistence on sending envoys to the area... we do not demand to negotiate with anyone, but we do not reject a visit by Dr. Raad," the latest Islamic Jihad statement said.

## Seminar urges boosted facilities for Arabsat

(Continued from page 1)

Arabsat telecommunication facilities should be formed in order to increase awareness about the various services offered by Arabsat and thus increasing Arab investment in the project.

The services that Arabsat can provide include teleconferencing, transmitting banking and other business data, electronic mail processing and transmitting graphic material for printing newspapers.

The seminar recommended that the proposed committee be entrusted with contacting government organisations, private sector companies, banks, Arab universities, and scientific research centres to promote investment in Arabsat facilities.

On education and culture, the seminar said Arab countries should produce documentaries and television series which outline and deepen concepts of the Arab-Islamic culture and the cultural

dimensions of the Arab World. These programmes, they said, form a strong base to combat the increasing dangers of foreign and imported cultural films. Participants also urged Arabsat to reconsider Egypt's membership in the organisation which was suspended in 1979 after Egypt signed a separate peace treaty with Israel.

They also requested a review of a 1976 Arabsat agreement regarding members' right to vote. Under the agreement, each country has one vote. The new request is that each share in the organisation may be allowed one vote.

Arabsat can also relay information and data on space technology that will enable the Arab World to develop its own space communication industry and the seminar called for the establishment of a space communication research centre to carry out research connected with

developing space technology. The participants preferred that such a centre should work in cooperation with an Arab university and be supported by the Arabsat organisation.

The conference, which was attended by scientists and educationalists from Tunisia, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Iraq and Jordan, also urged the formation of an Arab space committee to form a unified Arab space strategy and to lay the foundations for the launch of the second generation of Arabsat satellites.

The Arab League Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ALESCO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) also attended the meetings.

The seminar was inaugurated by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

## Arab parliamentarians gather in Amman for APU council, talks on Mideast situation

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — More than 150 Arab parliamentarians from 14 Arab states gathered here Sunday to attend meetings of the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) general council on Monday, the union's official opening on Tuesday and a seminar related to the conference which will be held on Thursday.

His Majesty King Hussein is expected to open the APU's official conference on Tuesday and deliver a speech which will focus on the latest developments in the Palestine question, the Iran-Iraq war and Lebanon.

Preparations were completed Sunday evening for the opening of the APU sessions at the parliament building and slogans such as "Palestine's salvation will be achieved through unity" and "We wish the Arab delegates success" were posted in the premises.

According to Mr. Hani Kheir, secretary general of the Lower House of Parliament, the APU's official sessions will end on Wednesday with the announcement of recommendations. The APU, which was established in 1974, groups all Arab countries which have parliaments: Palestine, the United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Algeria, Kuwait, Iraq, Somalia, Djibouti, North Yemen, South Yemen, Morocco, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Sudan. All members, except Sudan and Egypt, will attend the meeting, according to Mr. Kheir.

Egypt's membership of the APU was suspended in 1979 after it signed the Camp David accord while Sudan, at the moment, has

no parliament due to last year's coup which toppled president Numeiri.

According to Mr. Kheir, Monday's council meeting will open at the Holiday Inn Hotel and will be chaired by the current APU President Ali Al Salami of North Yemen who will hand over the chair to Mr. Akel Al Fayez, speaker of the Lower House of Parliament.

In Monday's session, delegates will discuss APU's achievements in 1985 and an application from Libya to join the APU as well as the agenda for the following day's general conference.

Mr. Mahmoud Al Zo'bi, speaker of the People's Council in Syria who arrived here by land via the border post of Ramtha, made a statement upon arrival underlining the importance of the parliamentary sessions. He said that the meetings come at a time when the Arab World is passing through a critical stage. The Arab parliamentarians ought to define the dangers of Zionism now threatening the Arab nation and Israel's continued drive to uproot the Arab inhabitants from their homeland with American support. Mr. Zo'bi told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra.

The Iraqi delegation, he said, will outline to the meeting the recent Iranian aggression on Iraq and Iran's continued threats against the Arab Gulf states. "The Iraqi delegation hopes to enlist further support for Iraq in its war to defend the Arab nation," Mr. Ham-moudi continued.

Mr. Mahmoud Ali Ahmad, chairman of the legislative committee in Somalia, said upon arrival here that his country attaches great importance to the meetings in view of the difficult stage the Arab nation is going through. The conference should be regarded as a golden opportunity for the delegations to exchange views about the Arab and international situations, including the Palestine question and the Iranian aggression, he told Petra.

## Dakhqan meets farmers in Mafraq area

MAFRAQ (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture hopes to apply the agricultural cropping pattern system in Jordan with the purpose of achieving a balance in the different types of crops being grown in Jordan and the needs for the local market and for export. Minister of Agriculture Ahmad Dakhqan said here Sunday.

The minister was speaking at a meeting with farmers in the Mafraq district with whom he discussed farming problems in the area. The new system requires farmers to grow certain types of crops for which they can receive a government subsidy, the minister said.

This system, he added, aims to safeguard the farmers' interests and also to boost the national economy by providing surplus produce for export, Mr. Dakhqan said. The government has made contacts with importers in Saudi Arabia and Lebanon for purchasing this surplus and Jordanian trucks have been exempted from paying JD 70 transit fees to facilitate the exports, the minister added.

He went on to say that the government is going ahead with plans to open other foreign markets for Jordanian crops and has for this reason started talks with the European Community to sound out their views about importing Jordanian agricultural products. Foreign markets, he said, require that Jordanian farmers grow the types of crops which are in demand in other countries and it also means

that there must be a good system for grading and packing the crops so that they can compete with products from other countries.

Referring to the production of tomatoes in Jordan, Mr. Dakhqan pointed out that Mafraq Governorate has been assigned 11,000 dunams in which to grow this commodity for consumption, processing and export. The Ministry of Agriculture has been coordinating its plans with the Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company of Jordan (AMPCO) to organise the process of absorbing local tomatoes and it has set up cold stores to keep tomatoes for up to a fortnight, the minister pointed out.

Several senior government officials attended the meeting.

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# Full text of PLO's statement on Middle East peace

Following is the full text of a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) statement issued on Saturday in Tunis following a top-level PLO meeting to discuss Jordan's termination of political coordination with the organisation's leadership:

The Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Central Committee of Fateh have studied the current political situation and its dimensions with special attention to the successive developments in the Arab and Palestinian arena. They studied the U.S.-Israeli onslaught on the Palestinian people and their national rights and on the PLO and the achievements of the Palestinian people realised through its struggle and sacrifice.

The committee also reviewed in particular the developments in the occupied Arab territories and noted with deep pride the united attitudes of the Palestinian people, who continue to defy and resist Zionist occupation and Israel's conspiracies and plans, and take pride over the solid resistance of the Palestinian people in defence of their existence, destiny and freedom.

This Palestinian people has reaffirmed total support for the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, in firm commitment to the basic national principles endorsed by the Palestinian councils and to which the PLO is firmly committed.

The committee also reviewed the course of efforts which the PLO has been following in cooperation with all Palestinian factions and studied the situation in the refugee camps in Lebanon and steadfast resistance which the people there have put up in the face of conspiracies designed to evict them from that country. The committee also looked into the strong relationship between the Palestinians and Lebanese peoples and their joint heroic struggle against Zionist occupation in southern Lebanon.

The committee also reviewed reports submitted to it about the political activities which the PLO leadership had been undertaking in Palestinian, Arab and international affairs.

On the Arab front, the committee followed up reports about the Iran-Iraq war in the light of the latest Iranian invasion and the steadfastness of the Iraqi Armed Forces and their daring confrontation of the aggression in defence of Arab soil. The committee viewed with great satisfaction the great achievements of the Iraqi Armed Forces in their defence of Arab land bearing in mind that Iraqi successes augur well for the whole region and pave the way for a peaceful settlement to the conflict in a manner that would protect the interests of the Iraqi and Iranian peoples as well as the Palestinian cause.

After reviewing the outcome of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue and new developments in the region, the committee focused attention on His Majesty King Hussein's nationwide address on Feb. 19, 1986, and the PLO leadership finds it necessary to clarify facts for the Palestinian people and the Arab Nation in a bid to remove all ambiguity in the PLO's stand and the subjects that were discussed.

The PLO emphasises the following:

First: The PLO does not see it necessary here to return to all the difficulties that obstructed the representation of the Palestinian people in the period that preceded the establishment of the PLO. But it likes to stress the basic right of the Palestinian people to choose their representatives and that no-one has the right to subject this question to any argument. The PLO has fully shouldered this responsibility through cohesion between the resistance and the political framework of the Palestinian people and through sacrifice and resistance on the part of the Palestinian people. The PLO has become a real embodiment of resistance designed to regaining the national and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. The PLO has come to be recognised as the representative of the Palestinian people on the Arab and international scenes.

The Rabat summit conference of 1974 put emphasis to this fact, which was later endorsed by United Nations resolutions and those of the non-aligned nations, the African and Asian countries, the Islamic as well as the Socialist and other friendly nations, recognising the PLO as the sole and legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people. From the beginning this representation came a political and recognised reality and the PLO has become to be accepted as an embodiment of the Palestinian identity in every respect representing the national aspirations of the people. This fact has been supported by the Palestinian people and has never been objected to by anyone because it does not conflict with the aspirations and struggle of the Palestinian people.

Second: The Palestinian people's struggle led by the PLO is an achievement for all the Palestinian

people inside and outside the occupied Palestinian land. It should be noted that the Zionist enemy would not have sent its armies to Lebanon to hit PLO bases nor would it have sent its planes to strike at the PLO in Tunis had it not known that these bases constituted the main source of danger for Israel. The struggle and achievements of the Palestinian people should not be separated from one another and could not be turned over to other parties; however, the Palestinian people deeply appreciate Arab and friendly countries' contributions to the Palestinian struggle.

Third: Any attempt to separate the PLO and the people or the PLO and its leadership or its various institutions should be considered as a vain attempt directed against the great Palestinian people who have gained a great deal of experience in the course of confronting all challenges and conspiracies and who have voiced deep allegiance and commitment to the PLO and its leadership. The people can abort any attempt to create an alternative leadership for them. Our people remind us of the Algerian experiment in which the Algerian people were able to foil all conspiracies to isolate the leadership from the people in the long struggle against French colonialism. The Algerian people upheld the slogan of "the leadership is the people and the people is the leadership" — something which is being exactly applied by the Palestinians.

This is the maximum embodiment of the deep relationship between the people and its leadership. This relationship has been confirmed by commitments and by the organic link between the idea of liberating the land and the people and the great sacrifice offered by many of our martyrs for this cause in the great march under PLO leadership towards victory and liberation.

Fourth: Unity of the Palestinian people's struggle reflects the unity of the Palestinian people and their cause in terms of principle. Therefore, no-one has the right to separate the Palestinian people living inside the occupied territories from those outside or separate the land from the people or the people from the PLO or the PLO from its leadership or any other classification. The Palestine question is of the Palestinian people as a whole and this is a national issue and involves political rights. It is also an issue of the relationship between the citizen and the homeland and the land regardless whether the Palestinian citizen is living on the land or deported from it. Any separation of any kind means introducing the idea of an alternative homeland for the Palestinians, one that entails a big danger for the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people, as much as it is a danger to the lands of other countries where the alternative homeland is designed. Our brothers in Jordan realise that danger inherent in the conspiracy that threatens Jordan and the PLO alike.

The PLO would like to note that the separation and disintegration of the Palestinian people and their cause had been from the start a Zionist idea suggested since the start of Jewish immigration to Palestine up to the Camp David conspiracy. The idea of an alternative homeland had been an old Zionist idea and also the idea of an alternative PLO leadership for the Palestinian people in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. They are all Zionist ideas like the ill-fated village leagues. Israel is certain to propose others and now it continues to meet with strong rejection from our people who have been struggling to foil all conspiracies aimed at settling the Palestinians and creating other homelands for them. We can cite many instances through history which are still alive in the memory of all people. All conspiracies to settle the Palestinian people in Sinai, Jordan, Syria, South Lebanon have been aborted and the Palestinians continue to foil all conspiracies designed to create another homeland for them in Jordan. The Palestinian people continue to raise the slogan of Palestine as the homeland of the Palestinians and they accept no other because it is an Arab land.

Acting on these principles which are of paramount importance and great sensitivity for the Palestinian people, the PLO would like to clarify its own position with regard to the subjects connected with the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship and the course and direction of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian action and also the PLO's stand with regard to Resolutions 242 and 338 and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the quest for a just and comprehensive settlement.

First: The PLO bases its convictions on sound faith in the uni-

que relationship between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples in the true meaning of the word. The PLO is careful to forego all negative elements in its relationship with Jordan — the relationship which was renewed with a visit by Abu Ammar (PLO chairman Yasser Arafat) to Jordan in the 1970s and followed by Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi to Jordan and through the joint Arab committee formed by the Baghdad Arab summit and the continued meetings between the two sides.

The PLO had taken the initiative towards building this relationship stemming from the conviction that Jordan and Palestine are linked by a unique relation. The PLO wanted to enhance this conviction through practice and through a joint attainment of a joint formula that would give this relationship positive reality, which is required in the confrontation with the enemy. The PLO wanted to draw up a joint action with Jordan in the face of a new Zionist tune advocating the idea of establishing a homeland for the Palestinians on the East Bank of the Jordan River.

There was another tune — resolving the Palestine issue on the West Bank through an Israeli formula which would of course be implemented at the expense of the Palestinian people and with the help of imposing the so-called autonomous rule. The PLO saw clearly the danger inherent in the two conspiracies and found that the correct solution comes through joint Jordanian-Palestinian efforts to be based on a balanced relationship that could form a nucleus for a united effective Arab move.

This idea which was the brainchild of the PLO and which was followed by contacts, dialogues and agreements, constituted the background for the later developments in the relationship between the PLO and Jordan.

The Palestine National Council (PNC) 16th meeting held in Amman in 1983 and the 17th meeting later both emphasised the unique relationship and the future confederation framework based on the Palestinian initiative. The PLO's political decision was based on previous Arab summit resolutions starting from the Rabat summit of 1974.

Second: This constituent stage

formed the basis of the Palestinian stand in the aftermath of the Zionist invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

That stage witnessed the emergence of the Reagan proposal which was turned down by the PLO. At that stage also there appeared a positive strategic transformation on the Arab front taking its shape eventually in the Arab peace proposal issue by the Fez Arab Summit.

The PLO saw in that proposal an important political dimension particularly as it has enjoyed a unanimous Arab approval.

The PLO was then focusing attention on reaching some form of relationship with Jordan based on common destiny, one that would be enhanced by initial agreement on a joint action based on the Arab peace proposal of Fez.

This view was considered following the failure of the seven member Arab committee in its mission that was designed to implement the Fez summit resolution but due to divergence of views between the PLO and Jordan over the Reagan proposal which was approved by Jordan, created differences between them ending in no agreement at all.

Third: Towards the end of 1984 and the beginning of 1985 a new stage began with King Hussein's initiative by endorsing the idea of holding the PNC meeting in Amman. The discussions and the meetings that followed ended with the Feb. 11, 1985 accord and which was called the common Jordanian-Palestinian action accord.

Acting on this accord the two sides later laid down a plan for a joint political action on the international level for the sake of creating suitable conditions for holding an international conference in accordance with Palestinian and Arab vision.

As to the projected conference, Jordan promised to exert all possible efforts with Arab countries and with the United States to make it accept the idea of an international conference. Despite the fact that the PLO had realised the American stand and its total disregard to the Palestinian national rights PLO found that such endeavour does not contradict the joint march and that Jordan could affect the American stand.

Jordan indeed made several attempts in this direction spread

over several months resulting, as Jordan told the PLO, in an unchanged American stand, namely the rejection of the national rights of the Palestinian people including the right to self-determination. The United States has insisted that the PLO accept resolutions 242 and 338 in advance and recognise Israel's right to exist within secure and recognised boundaries and a PLO declaration renouncing armed struggle in exchange for the U.S. acceptance of the PLO to take part in the international conference within a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

In addition, the U.S. has left open for Israel the right to reject what it sees unfit and unfavourable to its own interests.

Fourth: The PLO has repeated its declared position since the beginning towards the 242 resolution because it has ignored the core of Palestine question in terms of land and people or their rights or representatives.

The PLO made it clear that if it accepted the resolution without coupling it with the right to self-determination, to serve as a basis for an international conference, it would have accepted scrapping the Palestine question from that conference's agenda and the conference would then direct attention to the question of borders only.

The 242 resolution considers the Palestinian issue as a refugee problem, a point well explained in the Vance-Dayton declaration in 1977, and that the refugees in question are those of Arabs and Jews. As the PLO pointed out, the Jordan-PLO accord is a solution of the Palestine issue in all its aspects, a solution that cannot come about except through clearly guaranteeing the rights of the Palestinians as any other people on earth.

The right to self-determination is a sacred one guaranteed by all international charters and agreements of the United Nations and supported by all resolutions and declarations issued by the U.N. and by all summit meetings of Arab, Islamic and non-aligned countries.

The right to self-determination was supported by the European Community nations in their Venice declaration of 1980 and was backed by all higher Christian authorities, the European Parliament and the Warsaw Pact.

Therefore, the Palestinian right to self-determination is not a mere internal problem or a bilateral issue for Jordan and the PLO, it is rather a natural, firm and sacred right which has been enhanced and bolstered by the sacrifices which the Palestinian people have offered and by the total Arab support.

The Palestinian people's adherence to their right of self-determination does not stop at the granting of this right but rather extends into practice over their liberated Arab land of Palestine. It is Zionist enemy, supported by the United States, not Jordan, that continues, to deny the Palestinian people the means to exercise their right.

Any Palestinian decision on the form of a relationship between the Palestinian state and Jordan, or any other Arab country, becomes a reality only when it is put into practice on the land after the end of the Israeli occupation.

Therefore the PLO insists that the self-determination right be one of the main principles on which the projected international conference could be held. This right should not be exposed to compromise, cancellation or neglect, and that is why the PLO insists on this right, because it can guarantee a just and comprehensive solution, free from injustice of any kind to the Palestinian people.

Fifth: The PLO rejects the U.S. concept of the international conference, which contradicts with the Palestinian and Arab concept with regard to the conference's authorities and objectives. The U.S. has been viewing the idea of an international conference as being only an international umbrella for initiating direct talks between the concerned parties, something which the PLO continues to reject. The PLO supports the formula suggested by the Casablanca Arab summit with regard to an international conference.

Sixth: The PLO views the American stand as one aiming at overlooking the basic points which the PLO, and which Jordan says it is keen on, to achieve just and durable solution. Washington has been working towards overlooking the PLO as being the rep-

(Continued on page 5)

## Elephants and Zionists never forget

IT IS strange and surprising how seasoned European diplomats tend to underestimate the aggressive, calculative, deceitful and revengeful nature of Zionism and its powerful propaganda machine which has come to overshadow Western and American information media. The mud-throwing that greeted Kurt Waldheim when he announced his intention to run for the Austrian presidency is the latest manifestation of the Zionist influence in the media and it was in no way an "unexpected revelation of facts" that the former U.N. secretary-general had a Nazi past, as reports suggested. Rather, the organised, tailor-made campaign against Dr. Waldheim had been under wraps ever since he incurred Israeli wrath during his tenure at the U.N.

It is no secret that Dr. Waldheim, in his days as U.N. secretary-general, had come to grips with the Israeli arrogance and the Jewish state's open defiance of all international norms and laws when he took a special interest in Middle East affairs. His open criticism of Israel's continued occupation of Arab territories and aggression had enraged the Zionists and it cost him a third term at the U.N. But it was not enough for the Zionists: the latest accusations and allegations which threaten to wreck Dr. Waldheim's chances of ever winning the presidency were prepared and kept in the memory cells of the Zionist propaganda apparatus just for the occasion when he would announce his quest for further office in Austria or elsewhere. Charges in Vienna that Dr. Waldheim opponents in the Austrian Socialist Party "leaked" secret documents to the media and World Jewish Congress only recently to discredit the former U.N. official could best be described as naive. Such charges, typical of the Austrian political scene from whence sprang into life some of the most powerful Zionist organisations, would only serve as a smokescreen for the Zionist brains which cooked up the anti-Waldheim campaign as early as 1980.

We can only sympathise with Dr. Waldheim, who finds himself in the most unenviable position of being the target of the Zionists, and hope that the Austrian people are wise enough to realise the true nature of the anti-Waldheim campaign and decide not to let such mud-slinging mar their judgement in electing the best among them, whoever it might be, to lead them.

### ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

#### Al Rai: The EC role

AS U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy prepares to start another tour of the Middle East, the European Community embarks on a new bid through the Dutch foreign minister to try to find a solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict. But the United States realises that the solution of the problem lies with Israel which continues to lay obstacles in the path of all peace bids. The United States failed in the past to make Israel budge from its position and its intransigence, and the Europeans will now try to carry out the task, and we hope they will succeed in this endeavour. But for the Europeans to succeed, they should take a firm decision and call for a convening of a United Nations sponsored international conference so that the Europeans themselves together with the concerned parties can have a real chance to solve the issue. Further tolerance with the Israeli mal-practices is harmful to the European efforts which must be concentrated now before it is too late and before the Israeli evil actions should lead the region to an outbreak of another conflict.

#### Al Dustour: Arabsat and technology transfer

CROWN Prince Hassan emphasised in his address to the Arabsat seminar here Saturday the need of linking modern technology with Arab technical requirements with a view of benefiting from such technology as best as possible. He said modern technology and advanced sciences are needed now to help contribute to the development of the Arab World. The Arab satellite is no doubt another advanced means for linking the different parts of the Arab World with one another, thus contributing to the cohesion of Arabs and developing their culture and knowledge. As long as the space communications have a direct effect on every citizen in a civilised world it becomes incumbent on us as Arabs to try to benefit from the satellite which is now in orbit and which has been launched to offer us its service. This service will no doubt have a positive effect on our economic and social life and help us to keep abreast with modern developments. The Arab satellite is a tool for opening new scopes of knowledge for the Arab people.

#### Sawt Al Shaab: Demand for unity

ARAB leaders might be in disagreement at present about a number of topics and they might be of different views as to ways of solving them. But it should be emphasised that the main issue which they confront is the Palestine problem and that all their efforts should be concerted for the sake of countering Israel's designs and ambitions in our region. Their first priority should be the land which the enemy now occupies and the Arab people now living on it, and struggling to confront and abort Zionist aims and objectives. Arab leaders, who might be in disagreement, have been talking about the pitiable situation the Arab Nation is now living through and calling for an end to side conflicts and for stemming the expansion of the Zionist cancer in 'the body of the Arab Nation'. The Arabs should also unify their actions to confront the Iranian aggression and there is no doubt that the Arab people everywhere would rally to support their leaders' plans if they are really concerted and directed against the common enemies. We have confidence that the Arab leaders and their peoples will eventually rally to support their brothers in need, those now facing a challenge to their existence.

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السلامة في الحياة



# Full text of PLO's statement

(Continued from page 4)

representative of the Palestinian people and continues to reject the recognition of the Palestinians' rights including the right to self-determination. The U.S. has refused to provide an international guarantee for any solution that might be reached. A careful reading of King Hussein's speech would reveal that the United States has wanted to deceive the Palestinian people into believing that there was a chance for peace in exchange for a PLO response to Washington's request for offering basic concessions.

This has been the basis of disagreement with the United States. The PLO has therefore decided to build a plan for further steadfastness in the face of Washington's stalling and pressure. The steadfastness is the best means for obtaining the required guarantees for creating positive conditions for any solution.

The PLO regrets that the King's speech shifted the blame on the PLO while absolving the U.S. of any blame.

The blame should have been directed to the United States, which has contributed to aborting the joint Jordan-Palestinian moves. Shifting the blame on the PLO is repetition of the situation connected with the joint Jordanian-Palestinian visit to Britain.

In fact, the PLO does not see any reason for defending itself in this respect, but it is useful here to point to what the King's speech clarified about the failure of all previous initiatives which Jordan had earlier undertaken before joining forces with the PLO, in the hope of implementing the 242 resolution or the Rogers initiative or the Geneva Conference resolutions or the disengagement of forces or the Reagan proposal.

In all these instances the failure was due to the lack of United States credibility and Washington's total bias towards the Zionist enemy.

Seventh: All that has been said about the PLO credibility and the claim that it had approved the 242 and 338 resolutions in August 1985, calls for clarification. The PLO had in that period emphasised the need for a total commitment to the Fez Arab resolutions as the basis for any joint Arab, Palestinian and Jordanian moves. The PLO also underlined the inalienable and firm rights of the Palestinian people.

This contradicts with the allegation, that in itself conflicts with the resolutions of the Casablanca summit which had stressed the fact that the Jordanian-Palestinian efforts based on the Feb. 11, 1985 accord should be based on the Fez resolutions which called for an international conference that would be attended by the two superpowers and the Security Council's permanent members as well as the concerned parties including the PLO for the sake of arriving at a just and durable solution for the Middle East conflict and the Palestine problem.

According to the Casablanca resolutions, the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation should have held a meeting with Murphy and agreement should have been reached with the Jordanian government on laying an integrated programme that would entail a U.S. recognition of the PLO and the rights of the Palestinian people including the right to self-determination and also political guarantees for the PLO and for holding an international conference in exchange for the PLO's acceptance of 242 and 338 resolutions.

But as is known to all, the meeting with Murphy did not materialise because the United States had backed on its promises to Jordan. How then could the PLO be asked to accept the two resolutions while the U.S. continued to refuse the recognition of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination or even the provision of political guarantees for the PLO?

This issue has been at the heart of the dialogue with Jordan, with which the PLO also discussed the proposed meeting with the American envoy. How then could the PLO be blamed for "retreating from its stand" though the PLO had never accepted 242 resolution without being associated with all U.N. resolutions and the right to self-determination as is clear in the Jordan-PLO accord of Feb. 11 and all PLO declared positions?

The cause of the failure in the talks with Jordan no doubt rests on the U.S., as the U.S. credibility has always been doubtful. The PLO has been truthful and kept its promises to the Palestinian people and did not back from its struggle to achieve the people's rights.

The PLO has not saved any sacrifice in the course of armed struggle and in the quest for a political way that would ensure a just and durable solution. The only and real criterion for its credibility is the commitment to serving the rights of the Palestinian people.

Eighth: As for what has been said

about the mechanism of a solution, and that the PLO does not give priority to the regaining of land, the PLO aims at, first and foremost, the regaining of the national and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the restoration of the land is no tactical choice, subject to priorities in calculations, but is rather a national objective.

The PLO shoulders the responsibility of achieving these goals side by side with the Palestinian and the Arab people at large and continues to mobilise all efforts on all levels to fulfil that responsibility.

The Palestinian people together with the PLO have been left with the task of shouldering an inherited task of regaining the land which was lost when the PLO was not responsible for it. The PLO will not save any effort in involving Arab brothers and joining in with their efforts to regain the land and the holy places.

If anyone wants evidence and proof about the PLO's struggle, these could be found in the numerous instances of the sacrifices offered through the blood of the Palestinian martyrs. These instances supply a solid proof that the land is the basis for the struggle and that, though it was lost for a little price, the Palestinian people and the Arab nation are willing to liberate it at the greatest expense, through their martyrs.

Ninth: When the suffering of our people under occupation, and when the principle of elevating that suffering are discussed within the context of accepting the fait accompli situation, the pressure of the time element and what is being described as exploiting the available opportunities, the PLO finds itself responsible to clarify some realities which were supposed to be very clear.

The suffering of the Palestinian people should be viewed within comprehensive, objective and deep perspective. This suffering applies to our people inside the occupied territories and to Palestinians outside the occupied territories.

Those who are under occupation suffer under the yoke of oppression, suppression, the colonisation and confiscation (of the land) and are exposed to attempts to deprive them from their (Palestinian) national identity. Those outside of the occupied territories suffer from the agony of the diaspora, from persecution and a continuous state of siege.

Therefore, the PLO does not accept any fragmentation of the suffering of the Palestinian people or any dealing with this suffering if it does not address the essence of the cause, namely the Zionist occupation of the Palestinian homeland and the complicated and integrated results of such occupation at all levels.

Thus the PLO, together with the Palestinian people and the Arab nation, believes that the elevation of the suffering of the Palestinian people could only be realised through the restoration of all the inalienable and national rights of the Palestinian people including their right to self-determination which constitutes the crux of these rights.

Therefore, without the realisation of these rights, all other proposals that are being suggested are no more than fragmented and temporary solutions which would only complicate and deepen the agony of the Palestinian people and that would legitimise efforts by those responsible (for the suffering of the Palestinian people) to intensify the oppression and the persecution (of the Palestinians) through new forms which will be at the expense of the future, the unity, the land and the holy shrines of the Palestinian people.

Tenth: The PLO views, suggestions that a settlement was eminent, that all of the complex issues of the conflict were resolved and that all what was needed was a positive stand by the PLO, as a form of a cover up on facts and an oversimplification of realities.

In our point of view such suggestions, and accordance to our information about the American and Zionist positions, contradict with the political logic and with accurate and sound calculations of the complex situation in the Middle East.

For despite attempts by some to refer to what has been described as a positive change on the part of the U.S. position, vis-a-vis the Palestinian people, the U.S. still insists on allowing Israel the right to veto any peace ideas or plans which Israel does not find suitable.

The U.S. also insists that it has no plans to pressure Israel to accept any balanced solutions, even at their minimum level, and instead it focuses its pressure on the Palestinian, Jordanian and Arab sides to get them to comply with the Israeli conditions which are based on the balance of the military power in the area and on Israeli arrogance.

The PLO wants also to make clear that the issue of realising peace in the Middle East cannot practically and logically be subject to passing opportunities and oblique suggestions which are not based on solid and clear grounds.

The repeated experiences with the U.S., according to tangible facts and to King Hussein's speech, have always reached a deadlock. U.S. backtracking on previously given promises has become the distinguished feature of the American policies. Therefore the PLO's insistence on securing a solid basis for a just solution does not reflect a hardened political position nor does it reflect a decision taken at random.

The PLO's position embodies, in its essence and objective, a responsible concern to realise a just and a real peace which guarantees the rights of the Palestinian people away from manoeuvres, conspiracies and political fluctuations.

Stemming from this position, the PLO has submitted three proposals during the last round of talks in Amman, which aimed at pushing the talks in a positive direction in order to achieve a just, durable and comprehensive peaceful settlement of the Palestinian question and of the conflict in the Middle East.

But the three formulas, as we were told by Jordan, were rejected by the American administration.

The PLO affirms, with a principled position, its concern to realise a positive course for the joint Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

The organisation's stand stems from its national and patriotic commitment and is based on the resolutions of the consecutive PNC sessions and the Palestinian political constants. Its stand also stems from its conviction that the Palestinian-Jordanian relationship, with its background, dimensions and uniqueness, should not be affected by any passing or incidental fluctuations and changes.

This relationship should respond to the interests of both the Palestinian and Jordanian people opposing pressures and conspiracies which aim at both peoples. And hence is our perception of this strategic relationship which ties the fate of the two peoples.

The PLO bases its movements with Jordan, other Arab and other non-Arab parties on this reality (the strategic relationship between the Jordanian and the Palestinian peoples) and on its basis the organisation takes its decisions and defines its stands on all issues pertaining to the Palestinian cause and to the Palestinian people's affairs.

Most of the suffering and persecution which the PLO was exposed to so far has been due to its determination to maintain the independence of the Palestinian decision which has always been based on the organisation's commitment and adherence to the Arab national interests.

The organisation has refused before and refuses now any attempts to enfeeble the independence of the Palestinian national decision, such attempts which aim at bypassing our national legitimate rights.

In the light of the above-mentioned the PLO stresses the following:-

First: The organisation, stemming from its national responsible position, will continue its determined, adamant and tedious struggle in all of its forms at the heart of which lies the armed struggle to realise the national, legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to return to their homeland and to establish their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The achievement of these rights constitutes the basis for a just and durable peace in our area.

Second: The PLO, which expresses pride in the solid stand of our people inside and outside the occupied territories, a stand which reflects our people's commitment to the national rights and their full support for the organisation, pledges to our Palestinian masses and the Arab nation to continue the struggle in all arenas and at all levels.

## The man whose name was stolen

By Lawrence Neumeister  
The Associated Press

MINEOLA, New York — The lives of Joseph Bertis Randolph Miller and Darrin Giraud crossed only briefly at college five years ago, but police say Giraud learned enough to take over Miller's identity and destroy his reputation.

And in a particularly painful twist, Miller may have to give up his name to straighten things out. As police tell it, Giraud used Miller's name to join the U.S. army and air force, get arrested, run up debts, enter a drug-treatment programme, open checking accounts, get listed as an AIDS patient, rent cars and electronic equipment, and obtain a government social security card, driver's license and credit cards.

Miller, meanwhile, found himself being turned down for jobs and getting mail he couldn't figure out. And working with military agencies, police and banks to clear his name has been a daunting task, he said.

"The true Mr. Miller has about two years of work to straighten this out, if ever," said Stephen Sadowski, a New York state police spokesman.

Sadowski said the best way for Miller to straighten out his life might be to take a new identity himself.

Giraud, also 25, was arrested in January. He said his life had been mired in foster homes, drug abuse and psychiatric problems.

Fate threw Miller and Giraud into the same dormitory room at the New York State University at New Paltz for three weeks in 1981.

"I thought he was weird," Miller said. "He was super smart. After three weeks, I wanted out."

Miller said the first sign something was amiss came Feb. 16, 1985, when he got a letter saying the school had a request for information about him from a drug rehabilitation programme. He dismissed it as a mistake.

He recalls no other peculiar occurrences until last June, when he was looking for a job. "Every time it got to reference checks, nothing would happen," he said. With a friend's help, he got work with an aircraft manufacturer.

On Sept. 19, he received a certified letter addressed to Private First Class Joseph B.R. Miller.

It said: "A review of your military personnel records failed to produce a record of your discharge from the service." It warned him to contact authorities or possibly "encounter substantial prejudice in obtaining employment and other benefits."

About the same time, a Bank in Elgin, Illinois, came after him about a debt.

He went to police, who found Giraud in Plattsburgh, New York, his last address as a member of the air force. On Jan. 23, Giraud was arraigned on charges of criminal impersonation, forgery and possessing forged documents.

## Peking hospital offers sex changes, facelifts

By Mark O'Neill  
Reuters

PEKING — Peking's plastic surgery hospital, the only one of its kind in China, offers sex changes, facelifts, buttock repair and penis reconstruction.

The hospital's 100 doctors rec-

eive 12,000 patients a year from all over China who need treatment after horrific accidents or congenital deformities, or who want their eyelids raised or their sex changed.

"A distraught 20-year-old girl came here with a cleft palate, convinced she would never be able to

marry," hospital director Song Ruyao told Reuters.

"She told her mother that she should have choked her at birth. But we corrected the deformity, gave her a lot of encouragement and now she is happily married with children."

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only one in every 100 applicants who come in person or send a letter with a photograph of their affliction.

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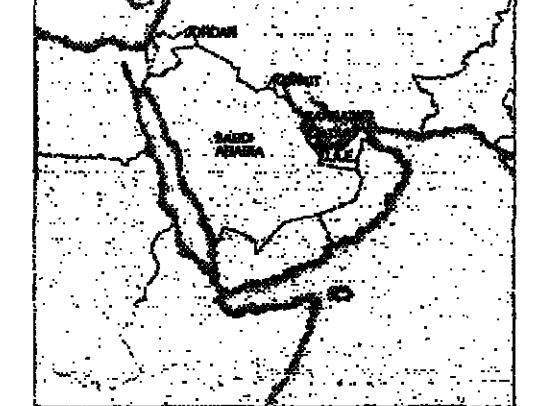
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سجل في الميناء



## West Ham sends United crashing out of F.A. Cup

LONDON (R) — English Football Association (F.A.) Cup holders Manchester United were relieved of the trophy they won against Everton last May when they were beaten 2-0 at home by West Ham Sunday.

A thunderous header in the first half by midfielder Geoff Pike and a second-half penalty, driven home by Scottish international full-back Ray Stewart, gave the Londoners a thoroughly deserved if surprising win in their fifth round replay at Old Trafford.

The sides drew 1-1 in their first meeting at West Ham's Upton Park ground on Wednesday when Manchester United and England captain Bryan Robson dislocated a shoulder. West Ham's win Sunday earned them a quarter-final tie away to Sheffield Wednesday on Tuesday.

Both West Ham and Sheffield Wednesday will therefore appear in the semi-final draw Monday along with Southampton, who won 2-0 at Brighton Saturday in the only completed quarter-final. Everton and Luton, who drew 2-2 Saturday and replay on Wednesday, and Liverpool and Watford.

Watford went through to the sixth round Saturday when they won their fifth round replay at Bury 3-0. They play their quarter-final at Liverpool on Tuesday.

Manchester United launched a ferocious opening onslaught on the West Ham goal Sunday, but found veteran goalkeeper Phil Parkes and the defence, well marshalled by England stopper Alvin Martin, in a highly-defiant mood.

Parkes was forced to make several fine saves, notably with his legs from Colin Gibson in the seventh minute and a diving block from Mark Hughes early in the second half.

But West Ham did more than resist pressure and their opening goal in the 18th minute was a

well-placed header of formidable power by Pike. He met Mark Ward's right-wing corner with perfect timing to leave the United defence helpless.

The Manchester side were never able to control play with their usual authority and were already looking disgruntled with themselves when Irish striker Frank Stapleton conceded the penalty with a charge into the back of Alvin Martin.

Stewart powered the ball past Chris Turner from the spot to leave United, missing the inspirational qualities of Robson in midfield, two goals behind and, although they fought spiritedly to recover, well-beaten.

West Ham almost made it three in the closing minutes when Scottish striker Frank McAvennie hit the post.

The win was West Ham's first over United in the F.A. Cup since 1964 and came with a good omen — every time the teams have met in the competition since 1945, the winners have gone on to win the cup itself at Wembley.

## Roma misses chance as Juve draws

ROME (R) — A second-half goal by defender Sergio Brioso saved Juventus Sunday from their second defeat this season by Napoli and gave them a commanding five-point lead over Roma at the top of the Italian First Division.

Argentine Diego Maradona, whose goal last November brought Juventus their only league defeat to date this season, did the damage again Sunday with a searing 34th minute header at the Stadio Comunale.

Luciano Favero deflected the ball into his own net over goalkeeper Stefano Tacconi with Brioso vainly trying to clear the ball off the line.

Eight minutes after the interval, however, Brioso was in action at the other end where he powered

home Juventus' equaliser to earn them a share of the spoils in a hard-fought game watched by a crowd of 50,000.

Second-placed Roma were twice ahead at Verona through striker Roberto Pruzzo, the second of his goals a dazzling left-foot volley from a cross by Polish midfielder Zbigniew Boniek which made him Italy's leading scorer with 15 goals.

But Antonio Di Gennaro equalised for Verona in the first half and Giuseppe Galderisi in the second with a penalty before West German Hans-Peter Briegel hit a hotly-contested winner for Verona in the last minute.

At one stage, Roma looked to be closing the gap on Juventus to two points but Briegel's late win-

ner left them disappointed and in desperate need of a convincing win when they entertain the league leaders in Rome next Sunday.

Internazionale Milan, emerging from a spell of inconsistency, built on their midweek UEFA Cup win over Nantes of France by beating Fiorentina 2-0. Striker Sandro Altobelli scored both goals to remind national team manager Enzo Bearzot of his claims to a place in Mexico.

England striker Mark Hateley, returning to action after having his tonsils removed, underlined his claims for a place in his country's World Cup squad with a 43rd minute goal, from a pass by compatriot Ray Wilkins, which gave AC Milan two points against struggling Pisa.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Australia stops N. Zealand in Davis Cup

AUCKLAND (R) — Australia had an easy passage to the second round of the world group Davis Cup Sunday, beating New Zealand 4-1. They now face Britain away in July. The promising start made by New Zealand on Friday when they ended the day all square after the opening singles proved a false omen. Pat Cash and John Fitzgerald teamed up to win the doubles in straight sets Saturday from Russell Simpson and Kelly Evernden and Sunday the consistent Peter McNamara clinched the tie for Australia, beating Evernden 3-6, 6-1, 6-3, 6-1. With the tie dead, Chris Lewis and Paul McNamee played the final game over the best of three sets and McNamee made up for his first day loss to Evernden by winning 6-4, 6-4.

### Frank Williams hurt in car accident

MARSEILLES, France (R) — Formula One car constructor Frank Williams was in hospital here Sunday after suffering a fractured spine in a motor racing accident Saturday in southern France, hospital sources said. Williams, a Briton whose team are contenders for the Formula One racing world championship title, was seriously injured when his car overturned in a field, according to police at Meunès-Les-Montrieux near Toulon. Police said he apparently lost control of the vehicle while rounding a curve on the road near the Paul Ricard Track at Castellet. Hospital officials declined to give a report on his condition.

### Moutinho easily wins Portuguese rally

ESTORIL, Portugal (R) — Portugal's Joaquim Moutinho cruised to a comfortable win in the Portuguese Motor Rally, finishing with a 13-minute lead in a race marred by the death of two spectators and a boycott by top drivers. Moutinho, driving a Renault 5 Turbo and making full use of his knowledge of the local roads, maintained his domination of the depleted field in the fourth and final stage which ended in the Estoril Autodrome near Lisbon Saturday night.

## Coe avenges earlier defeat, sets his sights on summer

COSFORD, England (AP) — After conquering another world, Sebastian Coe is about to set his sights on more familiar ground.

Coe charged past teammate David Lewis a half-lap from the wire and went on to score a fairly easy victory in the 3,000 metres Saturday, one of the few English victories in the annual indoor meet with the United States.

The triumph, at 7 minutes, 54.32 seconds the fastest 3,000 ever for Coe, took some of the sting out of his loss to Lewis over the same distance at British Indoor Championships last month.

"All I can say is, I'm five weeks fitter now," said Coe, who has been training outdoors in Spain.

Next will come "serious endurance work" in preparation for this summer's Commonwealth Games and European Championships, Coe said. He may go in the 5,000 metres in both of those events.

But for the long term, he continued, he'll probably concentrate on the distance for which he is best known — the 1,500, where he has won Olympic gold medals twice in a row.

"The 1,500 seems to be my

race," Coe said.

Coe drew the loudest cheers from the sellout crowd of 5,000 at the Cosford Royal Air Force Base arena. Any cheers for the home team were long in coming, as the U.S. team, made up mostly of second-line international performers, shot to an early lead and posted an 83-67 victory in the fifth annual meet.

Clarence Daniel, filling in for last-minute scratches Antonio McKay and Walter McCoy, set track and United Kingdom all — corners records of 46.52 in the 400.

The U.S. victories ended in another event where a top American performer was missing.

David McFadden won the triple jump with a leap of 16.42 metres. Charlie Simpkins, holder of the world indoor best in the event for a time this winter, was a last-minute defection from the U.S. squad.

"I've been associated with a lot of American teams and I've never seen a greater spirit or greater effort by a group of so-called has-beens," U.S. coach Stan Wright said.

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## Egypt hopes to avoid elimination

By Jonathan Wright  
Reuter

CAIRO — Egypt, after a shock 1-0 defeat by Senegal on Friday, are expected to strengthen their front line in their last-chance African Nations' Football Cup match against a confident Ivory Coast team in Cairo Monday.

Trainer Mohammad Al Sayed Sadik told reporters Egypt was prepared to deal with any Ivorian attempts to force a draw by opening up the game and shooting more from outside the box.

"We'll probably change the line-up to increase offensive pressure and exploit the wings," he added.

In the Senegal match, the first in an "A" group which also includes Mozambique, Egypt played without full-time wingers. Tarek Yahia, who came on for the last 15 minutes, and Mustafa Abdou are prime candidates to fill those slots Monday.

Commentators Sunday picked out Senegal and Ivory Coast, group table leader after their 3-0 victory over newcomers Mozambique, as the teams most likely to reach the next stage, but few ruled out Egypt completely if they

overcame a jinx on scoring. The two leading Group A teams will meet the best of Algeria, Cameroon, Morocco and Zambia in the semi-finals in Cairo and the Mediterranean city of Alexandria on March 17.

The Ivorians, perhaps the most highly motivated squad because of domestic pressure for a victory, have also promised to play an aggressive game Monday. "We always attack, to score as many goals as possible," coach Pancho Gonzales said.

The Franco-Argentine trainer added that the Egypt match would be their most difficult, though "our good result against Mozambique will certainly be an incentive."

He said he was particularly impressed by Taher Abu Zeid, the Egyptian forward who troubled Senegalese keeper Cheikh Seck most on Friday until he went off with a bad cut on the back of the head and a sprained thigh.

Abu Zeid told reporters Saturday the injuries were superficial and he had every hope of playing Monday.

Sadik said the Ivorian Elephants, with nimble and accurate strikers in Pascal N'Dri and Abd-

oulaye Traore and a dazzling winger in professional Youssouf Fofana, were not to be dismissed lightly.

"They're strong. They scored three clean goals on Friday and could have scored at least as many others if they had taken their chances," he said.

Commentators have already judged the Senegal-Mozambique contest Monday a foregone conclusion after the scrappy performance by Mozambique against Ivory Coast.

Mozambique, taking part for the first time in a contest at this level, rarely came within striking distance of Elephant keeper Gballe Zagoli while their defence had rings round them by the Ivorian front line.

Senegal has the advantage of at least five European-based professionals, including Jules Bocande, currently France's leading goalscorer, and Omar Sene, another striker with runaway French First Division side Paris Saint Germain.

What at first looked like excessive Senegalese caution against Egypt later turned out to be careful planning, commentators said.

## Morocco fears Cameroun's speed

By Hamza Hendawi  
Reuter

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt — Morocco must try to dictate the pace and rob Cameroun of their edge in speed when the sides meet on Tuesday in the African Nations' Cup final series.

"They are physically strong and

very fast and we cannot match them for speed," Moroccan coach Jose Faria said Sunday.

"What we will do is that when (goalkeeper Badou) Zaki is in possession he will give the ball to the nearest defender who in turn will pass it to a midfielder — then we attack."

Zaki will not kick goalwards and have our players go chasing it against the fast Camerounians. We will not allow them to have their fast game prevail and we shall use wingers to penetrate their defence," the Brazilian Faria told Reuters.

Faria, nicknamed "La Baraka" (Mr. Lucky) by Moroccan fans for his recent successes, said Cameroun were now Morocco's main hurdle on the way to the semi-finals on March 17.

"If we win on Tuesday, we can go on and beat Zambia, who will likely be demoralised by a defeat by Algeria," he said. Algeria and Morocco played to a goalless draw here Saturday night.

Cameroun, who had an impressive run in the 1982 World Cup finals, grabbed a dramatic 3-2 win against Zambia Saturday in a match which will be hard to follow for excitement.

Morocco-Algeria, a clash widely expected to be a thriller, was something of an anti-climax. Except for brief flashes of brilliance by Morocco's Swiss exile Aziz Bouderbala, it was fought out in mid-field.

"I am happy with the draw and I think the Algerian coach (Rabah Saadani) is just as happy," Faria said.

He said his side was negatively affected by the absence of key players Timoumi, Hidamou and Dahane, left at home because of injury.

Mustapha Haddaoui (of Swiss club Lausanne) and Bouderbala felt lonely out there without them. If they were all there, they would

have played a symphony on the Algerians," he said.

The Algerians probably had similar sentiments. They were without their 1982 World Cup veterans Rabah Nadjer of Portuguese club Porto and Tedja Bensoula of French club side Le Havre.

They arrived Saturday night and will be available for the clash against Zambia here on Tuesday. While the balance is clearly tipped in Algeria's favour in the clash with Zambia, holders Cameroun are in no mood to make an early exit from this eight-nation tournament after their initial success.

"The Moroccans will need maximum points from us on Tuesday and that will make them nervous. We will be relaxed and will go for a win," coach Claude Le Roi told Reuters.

Cameroun showed weakness in defence Saturday and survived an early onslaught by the Zambians, who unleashed a series of ferocious drives and headers which goalkeeper Thomas Nkono needed all his experience and perception to parry immaculately.

"Our defence tactics just evaporated in the first 20 minutes but we were able to correct this in the second half," said Le Roi, a 38-year-old former French professional.

Cameroun are likely to be without French-based midfielder Teophile Abega against Morocco. He limped off the pitch in the second half Saturday and Le Roi said he had a knee injury.

Start striker Roger Milla collected his first yellow card Saturday and to judge by his conduct appears likely to collect another before the two-week championship is over.

The French Stienne club player spent considerable time arguing with referee Idris Mazawi of Mali, and at one point had an off-the-ball brawl with the Zambians.

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**MADLY IN LOVE**  
(Colour)  
Performances: 12:00, 3:30, 6:30, 8:00

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(Colour)  
Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30



## Machinists escalate TWA strike

NEW YORK (R) — The strike by flight attendants against Trans World Airlines (TWA) escalated sharply Sunday as machinists at major airports across the nation refused to cross picket lines.

The International Federation of Flight Attendants (IFFA) said TWA operations had been brought to a halt at Kennedy, La Guardia and Newark airports, all serving the New York area, as well as airports in Chicago, St. Louis and Kansas City.

IFFA spokeswoman, Ms. Karen Eitelberg, said that in addition, ground crews in London, Rome, Paris and Tel Aviv were honouring the strike by refusing to refuel TWA planes.

She said more than 20 aircraft were stranded in Europe.

The IFFA claimed its biggest victory in the two-day strike Sunday when the 2,400 members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers in Kansas City refused to cross picket lines and closed down TWA's main service and maintenance depot.

"Without servicing, TWA cannot put their planes in the air," Ms. Eitelberg told Reuters.

TWA later denied that the facility was closed.

The strike by 6,000 attendants began at midnight on Friday when TWA and the IFFA failed to reach an agreement on wage and benefit concessions.

TWA Chairman Carl Icahn said he had asked the attendants to accept a 22 per cent wage cut as part of a stringent economy plan to save the airline. The attendants claim that Mr. Icahn was really asking for a 45 per cent reduction.

TWA spokeswoman, Ms. Sally McElwreath, earlier said that the company was experiencing difficulty at its Kansas City depot. "Apparently the maintenance facility at Kansas City had a large number of people who did not show up for work or joined the picket lines," she said.

The action would have no immediate effect on the airline, she said. "It is not going to ground the airline immediately. The facility is used for long-term maintenance rather than day-to-day maintenance," she said.

Later, TWA spokesman, Mr. Larry Hilyard, said the company "emphatically denied" that the facility was closed. "Just because people decide not to cross the pic-

ket line does not mean the facility is closed," he said.

He also denied that TWA operations at Kennedy and Chicago airports had been halted.

"We had 85 per cent of our machinists turn up for work at Kennedy, and 180 out of 181 machinists turned up at Chicago. IFFA must be having flights of fancy," he said.

Ms. McElwreath said TWA flew 52 per cent of its scheduled flights Saturday and planned to bring 25 more planes back into service on Monday, including two international flights from Boston to Paris and Rome.

"We intend to bring 25 aircraft back into operation on Monday, another 50 on Tuesday, with substantial additions on Wednesday and Thursday to bring our operation up to 100 per cent by Friday," Ms. McElwreath told Reuters.

The IFFA said that TWA's target was unachievable.

"The only way the company can return to full operating conditions is with our cooperation. And that means signing a contract with the union. As long as this strike continues the company cannot resume full service," IFFA spokeswoman, Ms. Cynthia Def-

igueiredo said.

Ms. Defigueiredo also said that some of the 1,500 attendants trained by TWA to replace the strikers were refusing to cross the picket lines and were even joining them.

She refused to say how many replacement attendants had joined the strikers. "We want TWA to get a nasty surprise," she said.

Federal Judge Howard Sachs Saturday denied a temporary restraining order sought by TWA in Kansas City to keep the machinists from honouring the attendants' picket lines.

A further hearing was scheduled for Monday.

Mr. Icahn took over TWA early this year after a nine-month struggle and won concessions from the pilots and the machinists.

The pilots accepted a 25 per cent wage cut and agreed to cross picket lines of other unions.

The machinists agreed to 15 per cent cuts but refused not to cross the picket lines.

Mr. Icahn said the concessions were needed to cut TWA's losses, which last year hit \$193 million. The airline was expected to lose \$125 million dollars in the first quarter this year.

## Gulf Arab countries say oil prices have fallen to unacceptable levels

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies said Sunday oil prices had fallen to unacceptable levels and only cooperation between all producers, within and outside OPEC, could change this.

In a statement issued after a five-hour session of Gulf Cooperation Council oil ministers here, they said the oil market "had deteriorated to an unacceptable level that we hope will convince all of the importance of cooperation."

Ministers from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Bahrain met to coordinate policy ahead of a conference of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) next Sunday in Geneva.

Their combined oil output is close to 7.5 million barrels per day. Only Oman and Bahrain do not belong to the 13-nation OPEC.

"The current situation is harmful to producers inside and outside OPEC and also to consumers in the short and long-term, so we need to bring together all the efforts of producers inside and outside OPEC," the statement said.

"It is difficult, if not impossible, for a group — whether the Gulf Cooperation Council, OPEC or any other body — to stop the deterioration."

There was no sign that the countries were wavering in their support for a policy agreed by OPEC last December, under which it abandoned an output ceiling of 16 million barrels per day (b/d) to go for an undefined "fair share" of the oil market.

The policy switch followed abandonment of official OPEC prices last September by Saudi Arabia, the last member of the cartel to do so.

Saudi Arabia and the others say publicly that output restraint will only work if all oil producers participate, and have singled out Britain and Norway for particular attention.

The two North Sea exporters are not expected to be at a meeting between non-OPEC and OPEC producers in Geneva on March 19. Oman, Egypt, Malaysia, Brunei and Mexico are among the non-OPEC producers likely to attend.

The Gulf Arab states have been blamed by OPEC hard-liners, such as Algeria, Iran and Libya, for causing the market collapse in which prices have dropped by 50 per cent or more.

These states have called for sharp short-term production cuts to prop up prices, and a return to a general policy of output restraint.

The Gulf ministers, who referred in their statement to a 1982 meeting in which they warned of a fall in prices caused by overproduction in the North Sea and inside OPEC, called for "responsibility from all and the avoidance of distortions of facts."

IEA estimates slight decline in OPEC output

Meanwhile, the International

Energy Agency (IEA) estimated Sunday that OPEC crude oil production will average nearly a million b/d less in the first three months of this year than in the last quarters of 1985.

It said total OPEC output would slip to an average 16.8 million b/d in January-March compared with 17.6 million b/d in the previous quarter.

The IEA figures showed slight production declines in Libya and Iraq and sharper falls in Iran and Nigeria. But analysts said the cutbacks by Iran and Libya were the only ones with an apparent political motive, while the Iraqi and Nigerian production cuts could have been due to lengthy discussions on price formulae with potential lifers.

The cuts of 300,000 b/d by Iran and 100,000 b/d by Libya may reflect this strategy.

The IEA sees output in Saudi Arabia, the largest OPEC exporter, rising to 4.3 million b/d from 4.2 million in the last 1985 quarter, and the United Arab Emirates and Qatar also producing 100,000 b/d more apiece.

Oil consumption in the 24 main industrial countries of the Org-

anisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which fell by 1.7 per cent to 34 million b/d in 1985, is expected to rise slightly to 34.3 million in 1986, assuming prices stay around February's levels.

"Projections of OECD oil consumption in 1986 have been revised upwards, taking into account recent reductions in crude oil and product prices," the report said.

The rise in oil use was likely to be concentrated in the last three quarters of 1986 because of the time needed for crude oil price falls to be passed through to product prices. In the first quarter a drop in consumption of around one per cent was expected.

The report said preliminary estimates indicated company stocks would be reduced by 1.3 million b/d in the first quarter of 1986, in line with normal seasonal trends.

Total stocks on land in the non-communist industrial countries were projected to be around 406 million tonnes, or 99 days' consumption, on April 1.

"Company stocks have been drawn down almost continually during the past five years and are now lower than at any other date since 1974," the report said.

## Price instability hits countertrade expansion

LONDON — A sudden fall in world oil prices, the collapse of numerous proposed deals, and severe financial reverses for several trading companies, have come as a jolt to the business of countertrading.

The world trading phenomenon of recent years, countertrade has owed its success and its growth to the world economic crisis, and the different ways in which it has affected both rich and poor countries.

The industrial nations of the West have been keen to sell their products to keep factories fully occupied but have found their traditional customers unable to raise the necessary hard cash.

Those countries have been equally anxious to acquire Western goods in many cases in order to modernise their own industries. The answer has been to exchange — resources, such as oil, or relatively low technology products one way, industrial and consumer goods the other.

This growth has been checked, however, by the difficulties encountered by some of the best-known practitioners of countertrade.

Nowhere was this more sharply underlined than in Austria where, in recent months, Intertrading, a unit of the Voest-Alpine steel group, and Mex, a trading unit of Chemie Linz, have suffered heavy losses in connection with oil barter deals with Iran.

In Nigeria, which emerged a few years ago as Africa's most aggressive user of countertrade, largely based on oil resources, numerous deals have been cancelled or suspended as unworkable. For a time, the country's countertrade policy was put into abeyance and only more recently has it been cautiously reactivated.

Just as the oil price rises of the 1970s sparked the recession and gave impetus to the growth in barter, the sudden and sharp price fall is prompting widespread concern that oil may no longer be invulnerable as a tool in countertrade.

This unexpected reversal of fortune for oil barter specialists stems from the decision by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) members last year to end the two-tiered price system — the so-called OPEC official price which was deemed artificially high, and the real, spot market price.

With this has come the end of the oil production quotas, the existence of which through last year caused many producers to conclude billions of dollars in barter deals to circumvent their own self-imposed restraints.

The resulting unpredictability of prices is now imperilling the oil barter market in a way which does not affect other commodity deals where prices, while low, are far more easy to predict.

Yet, while the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and other opponents of

countertrade can take satisfaction that some of the dynamism has gone out of the practice, the fact remains that its growth potential is strong.

It is abetted by the halting recovery of the Western economies, lack of a cohesive programme to resolve the Third World debt crises, and the weakness of the non-oil commodities, many of which are the sole items of trade for developing countries.

In recent months, Malaysia, advised by Barclays Bank of the U.K., has formed up a national countertrade policy.

Pakistan, which has long countenanced bartering on an unofficial basis, is commissioning several Western trading companies to use countertrade specifically to improve the quality and balance of its trade.

Greece, with the support of its banking community, has set up an organisation to handle countertrade.

In some South American countries, such as Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Brazil, an increasing number of state or large private companies are using reciprocity as a lever when concluding deals with foreign suppliers.

Nowhere is this more evident than in Turkey, where a long saga surrounding the supply of \$4.2 billion in F-16 fighter aircraft by General Dynamics of the U.S. continues. U.S. trade officials believe the deal will be worth \$5 billion, of which \$2 billion is likely to be offset by trade.

The sophistication with which countertrade is being practised suggests that it has been far more prevalent in the post-war trading system than has so far been admitted or recognised.

The countertrade involvement of the U.S. — nominally an opponent — was underlined in a recent International Trade Commission report.

The report said that in 1984 alone some \$7.1 billion in sales agreements involved countertrade, of which military-related offsets amounted to \$5.8 billion.

The countertrade obligations incurred as a result of those deals required U.S. companies to handle some \$2.7 billion in transactions for their customers.

Political concern has been voiced in Washington about the offsets, and the loss of U.S. technical leadership through technology transfer abroad, and this has prompted a series of hearings by the House banking sub-committee.

The evidence given, however, sought to allay fears on this.

Mr. James Blaker, the deputy assistant defence secretary, told the committee that the offset programme was important in that it gave U.S. alliance partners a capacity for self defence and helped create a multinational defence force.

Technology transfer was not such that the U.S. defence base had been eroded, he said.

The committee was reminded at various times that U.S. multinationals, particularly in the aerospace field, employed teams of people whose role was to purchase goods from overseas customers. Indeed, it was the U.S. offset programme, begun in the early 1950s, which provided the basis for its subsequent handling of countertrade.

Mr. Joel Johnson, a vice-president of the American League for Exports and Security Assistance, sought to discourage Washington's involvement in setting policy for his group's members, which include the big aerospace concerns. While cash-for-goods was desirable, American companies had to be competitive.

Any effort to allay the use of countertrade would have to be done on a multilateral basis, and not be just a unilateral attempt to "fix" something the U.S. deemed was wrong. He added that information about offset was sensitive and any government mis-handling of it would whet the appetites of foreign customers for even more.

One of the main hurdles the system still has to overcome, however, is the continued opposition of the international economic establishment.

In a report issued last year, the OECD found that countertrade accounted for just five per cent of world trade, that is about \$80 billion. While the figure is generally conceded as far too modest by many trading organisations, the OECD concedes that the practice has grown sharply.

It notes that, from the company point of view, the use of countertrade, or more simply reciprocal trading, to help win an export order, has its appeal. The OECD, nevertheless, sees dangers to the world trading system

from too widespread a growth in the practice.

GATT's case, too, is that bilateralism distorts the normal growth of trade and that it often perpetuates inefficiencies in a specific nation's trading industries.

Even worse, it excludes non-participating countries from expanding their trade and often locks countries into long-term and disadvantageous trading patterns, as is common within Comecon or among certain Western nations, such as Finland, which trade heavily with the Comecon bloc.

"Substituting discriminatory, bureaucratic decision-making for the impersonal workings of market forces may buy some peace in the short run, but only at a heavy cost in terms of its impact on the medium-term prospects for friendly commercial and political relations," says the GATT report.

The long-term professionals in the business privately agree with the GATT's concern. But they point out that countertrade will not go away as long as there is a debt crisis and as long as a vast part of the world is devoted to centralised planning with all the associated problems of lack of convertible currencies.

As a British trade department official recently told a trade seminar, it was perilous to be too sanctimonious about so-called pure trade. Was not money itself a volatile commodity? he asked. And were not the money merchants responsible for much of the Third World debt problem?

"Now they find the costs of repayment or refinancing seriously affected by demands for this commodity outside their control — such as the U.S. budget deficit."

"The purveyors of money have a selling job to do in many parts of the world today," he said. "There is a confidence gap to be made up."

— Financial Times news feature.

## Saudi Arabia may further cut spending

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia announces a budget Monday that coming in the midst of a world oil crisis will inevitably include further cuts in government spending, bankers and diplomats in the Gulf said.

The world's largest oil exporter has seen its output drop from a peak in 1980 of close to 10 million barrels per day (b/d) to a 20-year low of two million last summer.

Since then it has managed to raise production to above four million b/d, but as a result oil prices have dropped by almost 50 per cent because of a worldwide surplus.

Government revenues have tumbled. In the financial year which ends Monday, its income is likely to have been a mere 40 per cent of the 368 billion riyals (then \$107 billion) it spent four years ago.

This has forced it to slash spending.

"This year will continue the trend established in recent years of smaller and smaller budgets," said one Western diplomat. "But it's not clear how low they will go."

Many believe further cuts of 10 to 15 per cent are likely.

The government says much of the country's infrastructure is complete and it has no need now to spend money on big civilian undertakings.

Nonetheless, many projects have been cancelled or put on ice, leading to a huge downturn in the construction industry, and there is no reason to expect that to change. As projects started in the boom years are completed, government spending can run down.

Subsidies on items such as wheat production have been cut, and charges by government-run utilities have been raised.

The current year's balanced-

budget projection of 200 billion riyals (\$54.8 billion), is based on oil output of 3.85 million b/d and a price of \$28 a barrel.

Neither target has been met, with output barely exceeding 3.5 million b/d and prices now below \$15 a barrel.

The government will probably have underspent this year on its projections, to preserve a balanced budget which it has said it plans until 1990.

The 1985-86 budget followed two years in which Saudi Arabia dug deep into foreign reserves to finance budget deficits.

Even defence, which accounted for 32 per cent of this year's budget allocations and is the last area where the government is still spending heavily abroad, is unlikely to escape cutbacks.

Diplomats said that while the Saudis saw their oil revenues slump and a fall in the value of the dollar, in which those revenues are

denominated, the financial news has not been all bad for the Saudi government.

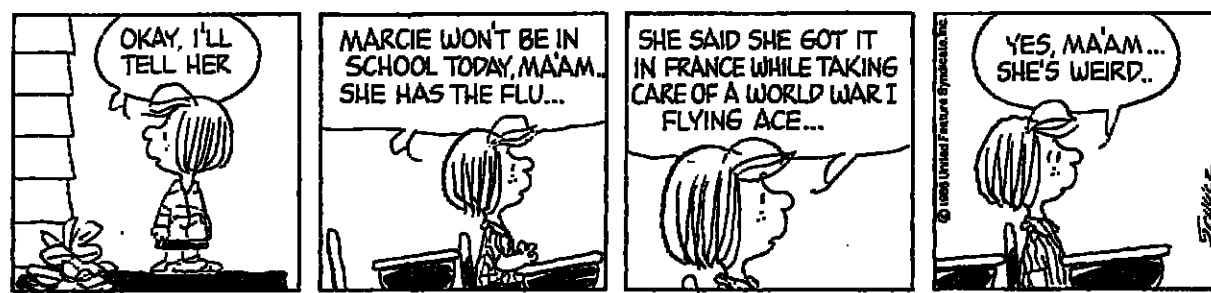
They said the falling dollar will have swollen the size of the country's non-dollar assets, and a realisation of these gains as income may have allowed the government to keep its budget balanced without shrinking the reserves.

They said that in the early 1980s, the Saudis concentrated on liquidating dollar assets when they drew down on foreign reserves, a move which now seems to be paying dividends.

Many bankers also believe a key part to the Saudi budget policy will be devaluations of the riyal. By doing this, the government can swell its local currency revenues from oil.

Devaluation speculation led to a weakening of the riyal in Gulf markets Sunday to 3.6550/60 to the dollar, compared with its government-set parity of 3.6500.

### Peanuts



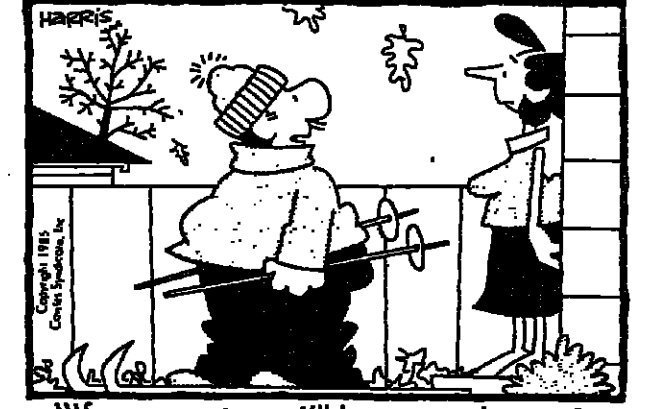
### Mutt 'n' Jeff



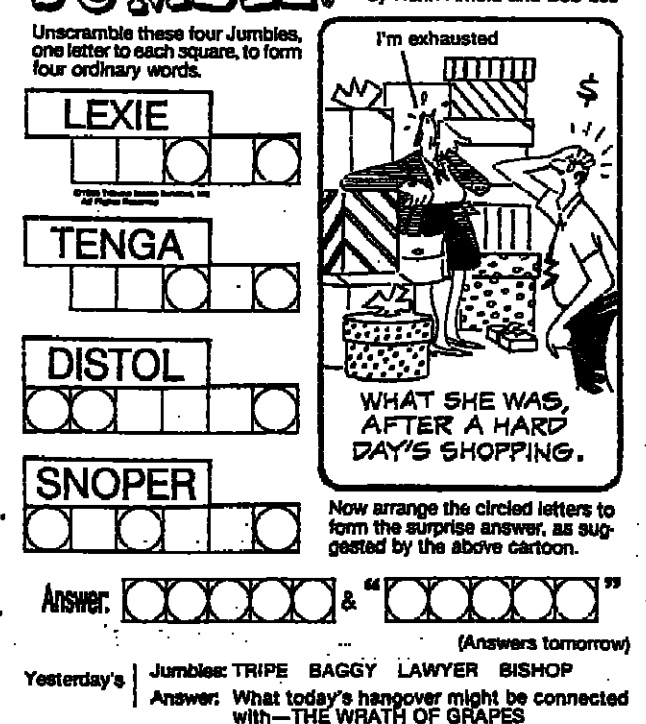
### Andy Capp



### THE BETTER HALF



### JUMBLE



## Developing nations call for liberalising textile trade

PEKING (AP) — Representatives from 23 developing countries and regions demanded Saturday that developed countries eliminate all forms of discriminatory restrictions on textile trade, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

They news agency quoted the head of the Indian delegation, Mr. J. K. Bagchi, as saying that discriminatory and restrictive measures taken by developed countries against imports of textiles and clothing from developing countries have caused great difficulty for India's foreign trade.

## Horoscope and Crosswords not received



# Museveni fighters seize strategic Ugandan town

KAMPALA (R) — Uganda's National Resistance Army (NRA) said Sunday it had seized the strategic northern town of Gulu, stronghold of former government troops who had vowed to defend the area to the last man.

The Defence Ministry said in a press statement that the NRA, which took power in Kampala in late January, captured Gulu at six O'clock (1500 GMT) Saturday evening. It gave no indication of casualties.

The reported capture of Gulu gives the NRA control over almost the entire country.

Gulu was the stronghold of former army commander Lt. Gen. Bazilio Okello. He was quoted as saying last month that he would take his revenge on the NRA and "crush them because they are traitors."

The NRA now controls all of southern and central Uganda and

much of the north, but have not yet seized Kitgum, towards the Sudanese border, or Arua, north western home of former dictator Idi Amin.

The terse Defence Ministry statement said the NRA seized Gulu, about 320 kilometres north of Kampala, after three hours of heavy fighting.

"This is a strategic victory for the NRA. The struggle continues," it added.

The NRA, who consist mainly of Bantu southerners, have encountered relatively little resistance as they have moved north despite a long history of bitter rivalry between them and the Nilotic

northerners. Kampala residents say northerners have little to fear from the NRA because they are well-disciplined, in strong contrast to other armed factions notorious for their brutality.

Uganda's new president and NRA leader Yoweri Museveni has vowed to make reconciliation between north and south a top priority, and sent emissaries to Arua last month in an attempt to reach a peace agreement with members of the former government army.

Meanwhile in Jeddah, former Ugandan President Idi Amin was quoted as saying he was unconcerned by the possibility Uganda's new leaders might seek to extradite him.

"I am not afraid. Nobody will even consider this request," he told the Saudi Gazette newspaper in an interview.

Ugandan Foreign Minister Ibrahim Mukibi said in Geneva last week the new government was seeking a United Nations investigation of whether earlier rulers including Amin were guilty of genocide.

Amin, who has lived in Saudi Arabia since shortly after his overthrow in 1979, said he had done nothing to harm the interests of Uganda or Islam.

"I am in a strong position in Uganda," he said. "Uganda needs a strong leader like me, but I don't want to be president."

"I am a committed and pious Muslim," he said, adding his only ambition was to be a more devoted Muslim and to see Uganda united.

The time for recrimination had passed, and Ugandans should work for the unity of the country, the newspaper quoted him as saying.

## Anglicans to debate women clergy

TORONTO, Canada (R) — Leaders of the world's 65 million Anglicans meet in Canada this week to discuss the divisive question of women priests and moves for reconciliation with the Roman Catholic Church.

The meeting on Wednesday, which brings together archbishops of the 28 Anglican Churches every three years, will be chaired by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie, who was cautiously supported the idea of women priests in his Church of England.

Women have been ordained priests in the three-million strong U.S. Episcopal Church and the one-million strong Anglican Church of Canada for nearly 10 years.

The only other Anglican Churches with women priests are in Hong Kong and Uganda, although there is continuing debate in England, Scotland, Australia and South Africa, among others.

A declaration last year by 112 U.S. bishops favouring admission of women to their ranks has put female clergy on the primates' agenda as the most closely watched topic.

Edmond Browning, the new

Episcopal presiding bishop, told Reuters of the American Church's "overwhelming support for women in the ministry" and he expected U.S. Episcopalians, who have more than 500 women priests out of a total of some 13,000, would eventually name a woman bishop.

But some traditionalists, including Bishop of London Graham Leonard, have voiced strenuous objections.

Leonard, the third-highest English prelate and a leader of the Anglo-Catholic faction that stresses Anglicans' roots with Roman Catholics and members of the Eastern Orthodox faith, warned that naming a woman bishop could cause a split.

A recent Gallup poll said 20 per cent of American Episcopalians still oppose women clergy. About 20,000 members broke away from the U.S. church after women were admitted to the priesthood, to form several splinter groups.

Ironically, Leonard is due to deliver the keynote address at an international conference of traditionalist priests and bishops in Fairfield, Connecticut, beginning on Monday.

A sponsor said it was "dumb

luck" that the traditionalist session would occur just before the opening of the Toronto meeting, where another focus is expected to be efforts to heal the 450-year-old split between Rome and Canterbury.

A new element was added last week in London when Roman Catholic and Anglican bishops working for unity said Anglican moves for women priests presented a "fresh and grave obstacle to reconciliation."

At the same time, they released a letter from Dutch Cardinal Johannes Willebrand saying the Vatican might be willing to recognise the validity of the Anglican priesthood if Anglicans officially adopted doctrinal statements on the ordained ministry and the eucharist worked out by theologians of both churches. Agreement on the question of papal authority was described as much trickier.

Despite conciliatory moves, including a trip by Pope John Paul II to Canterbury in 1982, Runcie said he wondered if the Pope regarded him as merely a "layman with pious intentions" because of the Vatican's refusal to recognise Anglican priestly orders.

## Australia dismisses security scare for Queen

SYDNEY (R) — Irish community leaders accused newspapers and security officials Sunday of spreading false rumours that the Irish Republican Army (IRA) might attack Queen Elizabeth during her current Australian visit.

Some local tabloids had reported that a counter-terrorist alert was issued to customs men following information that the IRA, which is fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland, might try to assassinate the Queen.

Police dismissed the reports, saying they were blown out of all proportion.

A senior police official said elaborate security arrangements for the royal visit were nothing unusual. "We have to be on the alert for any eventuality," he said.

The Queen and Prince Philip have received an enthusiastic welcome from crowds of people since they arrived in Australia on March 2 for a 12-day Australian tour.

There has been no sign of hostile activity by any groups, including anti-royalists or the IRA. The press reports said a group of Irish nationalists were detained and searched at Sydney airport during the past week as part of the security alert.

But an Irish community leader, Nancy O'Donnell, said the Irish group was composed of musicians who would perform as part of an Irish week.

## Astronaut chief accuses agency of risking lives

HOUSTON, Texas (R) — A U.S. space agency official has charged that it exposed astronauts to potentially "catastrophic" hazards since October 1984 through its pressure to launch more shuttle flights.

The allegations were made in a memo written on March 4 by John Young, chief of the astronaut office at the Johnson Space Centre in Houston and an astronaut who flew more missions than anyone else. The memo was released by the space agency Saturday.

In the memo, Young described problems "potentially as catastrophic to the space shuttle programme" as the Challenger explosion last Jan. 28.

All seven astronauts aboard the shuttle were killed in the blast, which occurred 75 seconds after launch.

The 12-page memorandum was sent to George Abby, head of flight crew operations for the space agency, and copies went to all astronauts, shuttle chief Richard Truly and other agency officials.

"If the management system is not big enough to stop the space shuttle programme whenever necessary to make flight safety corrections, it will not survive and neither will our three space shuttles or their flight crews," Young's memo said.

It also said that missions had been launched "with less than certain full reliability and full redundancy of the systems that we operate."

As the number of launches increases, "we will start having increasing numbers of various conditions and events... where things are not working normally and management will still want to go fly," Young predicted.

"We should not allow any increase in the inherent risk of operating the space shuttle just to increase the launch rate, or reduce operating costs or fly unsafe payloads."

Young cited what he called an "awesome list" of safety problems starting with a decision not to redesign "extremely sensitive" flap valves on fittings between the shuttle and its liquid fuel tank in late 1984.

In October 1985, a regulator on one of Challenger's manoeuvring jets locked up, and NASA decided to go ahead anyway, he said.

## Police receive anonymous letter on Palme case

STOCKHOLM (Agencies) — Stockholm police said Sunday they had not yet been contacted by the author of an anonymous letter containing information they felt might be related to the killing of Prime Minister Olof Palme.

Police Commissioner Hans Holmér said Saturday the letter contained "some interesting observations" about the night Mr. Palme was shot on a downtown Stockholm street.

Mr. Holmér, speaking in a Saturday news conference on progress of the hunt for Mr. Palme's killer, provided no details of the observations and no hints as to how important police thought they might be.

The Stockholm newspaper Aftonbladet speculated Sunday that the letter supported a theory that a second man involved in the attack was on foot near the scene of the slaying.

Mr. Holmér said the author of the letter reported he or she had been walking on a street near the shooting.

Police spokesman Leif Hallberg confirmed Sunday that there had been no contact yet from the author of the letter.

Mr. Holmér had used his Saturday news conference to appeal to the author of the letter to contact police again.

"We want help now," he said. Mr. Palme, 59, was shot in the back with a 357-Magnum revolver as he and his wife Lisbet, 55, walked home unguarded from a movie.

The Swedish prime minister, who had resisted tight personal security measures for years, had given his bodyguards the evening off and had not told security officers he was going to the movie.

Mr. Palme was honoured in two demonstrations in central Stockholm Saturday, one by some 6,000 immigrants to Sweden and the other involving 1,000 people also marking International Women's Day.

Meanwhile the Turkish newspaper Milliyet said Sunday Swedish police hunting the killer of Mr. Palme are looking for three Kurdish guerrillas.

Cemil Bayik, Ismet Dogru and Ali Haydar Kaytan, said to be members of the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), were named as suspects in statements to police in Stockholm by dissident PKK member Baki Karer, it said.

Milliyet and Hurriyet newspapers Saturday printed pictures of Bayik, 32, next to a composite picture of a suspect issued by Swedish police and said attention focused on him because of the resemblance.

## Colombians to decide on future of new parties

BOGOTA (R) — A dissident liberal movement and leftist guerrillas, taking part in elections for the first time, sought to break Colombia's traditional two-party system in legislative voting Sunday.

Neither was expected to score an upset victory in the polls but political analysts said their simple presence on the ballot was significant.

Their entry into electoral politics reflected an attempt to broaden a political spectrum that a diplomat jokingly said "goes from right of centre to centre right."

The two main parties, Liberal and Conservative, have dominated Colombia since independence from Spain in 1819.

Political commentators said a big turnout Sunday, especially in the cities, should favour the new Liberalism Movement of disillusioned Liberal Sen. Luis Carlos Galan.

Colombian voters have a reputation for apathy shown by an

abstention rate ranging between 43 and 67 per cent over the last 25 years, and Mr. Galan, 42, hoped to change that, they said.

The second new force at work in the campaign is the leftist Patriotic Union set up by guerrillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

FARC signed a truce with the Conservative government in 1984 and recently extended the peace pact as it sought to gain wider political respectability.

Other rebel groups, particularly M-19, are still waging a guerrilla war and are not participating in the elections.

Axual in Colombia, the polls, in which 313 seats in Congress and nearly 10,000 national, provincial and municipal offices are at stake, are expected to serve as "primaries" for the May 25 presidential elections.

The Liberals, backed by a well-oiled political machine and local "caudillos" or political bosses, were expected to draw more than three million votes and retain their traditional majority in Congress, currently 19 seats, excluding Mr. Galan's faction.

Political analysts said a poor Liberal showing could hurt the presidential hopes of party leader Virgilio Barco.

Mr. Barco, a former mayor of Bogota, has played down the effect of Mr. Galan's New Liberalism.

"The Liberal Party, even divided, will win these and the presidential elections. But the division brings no good," he told the newspaper El Tiempo in an interview Saturday.

## Soares sworn in as Portugal's president

LISBON (R) — Veteran Socialist Mario Soares was sworn in Sunday as Portugal's new president, replacing Gen. Antonio Ramalho Eanes who had ruled for a decade after the 1974 revolution that restored democracy.

Mr. Soares, who has served three times as prime minister since the revolution ended a right-wing dictatorship, swore an oath of allegiance to the constitution in a solemn ceremony in parliament attended by an array of world leaders.

"I swear on my honour to carry out the functions for which I am invested, to defend the constitution, to abide by it and ensure that others abide by it," 61-year-old Soares said.

He will be Portugal's first civilian president in 60 years.

The ceremony was conducted by the President (speaker) of the Parliament, Fernando Amaral, who was flanked by Mr. Soares and Gen. Eanes. After taking the oath, Mr. Soares shook hands with Gen. Eanes and exchanged seats with him.

Guests present included French President Francois Mitterrand, U.S. Vice-President George Bush, the Spanish and Italian Prime Ministers Felipe Gonzalez and Bettino Craxi and representatives of more than 25 other countries.

A huge street party has been organised in Lisbon to celebrate Mr. Soares' inauguration, which took place under tight security.

He won a narrow victory over right-wing rival Diogo Freitas do Amaral in last month's election.

Police said they were mounting the most extensive security operation ever seen in the Portuguese capital, using more than 7,000 policemen including anti-terrorist units.

The presence of foreign leaders has been a headache for Lisbon police chiefs worried by an upsurge in urban guerrilla activity coinciding with last month's presidential election.

The head of the country's prison service was shot dead on the eve of the vote and a car bomb exploded in the grounds of the U.S. embassy a few days later, causing no casualties.

Responsibility for the attacks was claimed by the left-wing urban guerrilla group the Popular Forces of April 25, named after the date of the 1974 revolution.

The group has said it was behind several killings, bombings and robberies since 1980 and more than 70 people accused of belonging to it are on trial in Lisbon.

request, the officials said. "The Contras are not doing anything," said one Honduran colonel who has been involved with the FDN since its formation in 1982.

"They have had the same leadership and tactics for four years. They have to restructure the FDN, because if they don't, they (the Reagan administration) are throwing money into the sea," the colonel said.

Honduran officials said there was dissatisfaction in Washington over the FDN's military strategy. They said U.S. officials believed the Contras would only improve as a fighting force if Congress allowed on-the-ground guidance from U.S. advisers.

The Honduran officials said the Contras should remove several commanders who were reluctant to expose their troops or themselves to combat.

But they added that most commanders created their own task forces by personally recruiting men, making it difficult to remove them.

Mr. Reagan, who is seeking \$70 million in military aid and \$30 million in non-lethal aid, has told Congress the money is essential to prevent Communist expansion in Central America.

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"The Liberal Party, even divided, will win these and the presidential elections. But the division brings no good," he told the newspaper El Tiempo in an interview Saturday.

Political sources said Conservative presidential candidate Alvaro Gomez, by accepting two widely publicised television debates with Mr. Galan last month, had hoped to aggravate the Liberal split and damage Mr. Barco's chances by boosting the image of the young senator.

Unconfirmed reports said that in Gen. Vargas's home town of Chone, 100 kilometres north east of Maná, groups of people were preparing to travel to the air force base to lend their support to the sacked armed forces chief.

Reporters outside the base said there had been no incidents since Gen. Vargas arrived there Friday afternoon, and there was no sign of other troops in the immediate area.

Gen. Vargas, dressed in combat fatigues, had been seen talking to groups of soldiers guarding the base.

The rebellion by Gen. Vargas is

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## Contras halt fighting, pose little threat to Managua

TEGUCIGALPA (R) — U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebels have almost completely abandoned the battlefield and pose little threat to the leftist Sandinista government, Western diplomats and Honduran government officials said.

They told reporters that over the last few months about 10,000 fighters of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) have crossed from Nicaragua into Honduras because of lack of political and military leadership.

They said the influx had alarmed the government, already concerned about the FDN presence, and caused concern in the Reagan administration, which is pressing Congress for \$100 million in aid for the rebels.

The rebels, known as Contras, also suffered shortages and transport problems in Nicaragua. But their major failing was lack of a political philosophy which could motivate their fighters and win abroad peasant support, the officials said.

Rebel inactivity had raised questions about whether the Contras could pose a serious threat without the help of U.S. advisers and trainers.

The Contras had been urged to make their presence felt this month while Congress debated the Reagan administration's aid

request, the officials said.

"The Contras are not doing anything," said one Honduran colonel who has been involved with the FDN since its formation in 1982.

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## COLUMN

### Finger falls from the sky

WEST BERLIN (R) — West Berlin police were mystified over the discovery of a human finger which fell out of the sky with a thump onto the roof of a car. Police said a 26-year-old man was alerted by a thud as he got into his parked car in the northern Tegel district of West Berlin. When he found a severed finger on the roof he took it to be a joke and left it on the roadside. But later he contacted the police and returned to the spot with them to examine it. Experts confirmed it was human and ordered a search of city hospitals for its former owner. But, so far, no explanation of the find has emerged.

### Mother becomes pregnant for 14th time to avoid jail

PESCARA, Italy (R) — A woman sentenced to 10 months in jail has become pregnant for the 14th time to avoid going to prison, the daily Corriere della Sera reported Sunday. Elisa Spinelli, 42, has had a child a year since 1975, when she was first sentenced to jail for stealing a chicken. Under Italian law women convicted of minor offences cannot be imprisoned if they are pregnant. Parliamentary Carabinieri Police were to take Spinelli to prison, but were forced to release her when she showed them a certificate saying she was pregnant, the paper said.

### Bengal tiger saved from restaurant

TAIPEI (R) — A Bengal tiger destined to be served as a gourmet dish at a Chinese banquet has been saved by a rich businessman amid outrage over the slaughter of the animals in Taiwan. The tiger, smuggled in from India or Bangladesh, is now in a zoo in the southern port of Kaohsiung after the businessman bought it from a butcher for 420,000 dollars (\$10,700), the city's mayor said. Newspapers Sunday quoted the businessman, Su Nan-Cheng, as saying that eating tigers was barbaric. An Interior Ministry official said 21 tigers had been killed for food in Taiwan in the past three or four years.

### Spielberg named best director

LOS ANGELES (R) — The Directors' Guild of America has voted Steven Spielberg, the film world's biggest moneymaker, best director for the Colour Purple. The vote followed Spielberg's failure to win an Oscar nomination as best director for the film, which won 11 other Oscar nominations. "I am floored by the award," Spielberg said. He asked that it be dedicated to black actor Adolph Caesar, 52, the film's co-star who died on Friday of an apparent heart attack. The film tells the story of a poor black woman's unhappy marriage. Other Spielberg films include Jaws, E.T., the Extra-Terrestrial and Raiders of the Lost Ark.

### Female soldiers to be court-martialled for hitchhiking at night

TEL AVIV (AP) — Women soldiers who are caught trying to hitch rides at night will be detained by the military police and court-martialled, the weekly army magazine Bamahaneh reported. The regulations which go into effect next Sunday are designed to safeguard the soldiers from assault and rape, the weekly said in its latest edition. Israeli women are recruited at the age of 18 for two years of mandatory service. Those who are stationed away from their hometowns sometimes hitchhike when they go on leave from their base.

### Israeli dance group travels to Poland

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's Bat Dor Dance Company left Sunday for Poland to give six performances in a visit by an Israeli cultural group. The tour follows a visit to Israel by a Polish theatre group three months ago. Tickets for Bat Dor's performances in Warsaw's Grand Theatre and in Lodz and Gdynia have been sold out, said company Director Joseph Frankel. Twenty-eight dancers are participating in the tour. He said the national Polish dance company Mazowiec will visit Israel in May.

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN  
AND OMAR SHARIF  
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### ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold: